

BAY AREA REPORTER

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A Young Man's Fancy

The rain may still be falling but Spring officially debuts Monday, March 20. Time to get outdoors again.

(Photo: S. Savage)

Britt Plan Praised At HRC Hearings

Partnerships Called 'Fundamental Right'; Confidentiality Problem Cited

by Allen White

The process to create domestic partners legislation in San Francisco began last Wednesday evening, March 8, with special hearings before the Human Rights Commission. For the first time ever, the mayor of San Francisco sat in on the commission in his role as ex-officio member.

The first speaker before the commission was Sup. Harry Britt. "I think this hearing is important in what I believe will be historic legislation for this city," said Britt, "if we identify the human rights issues and remedy them we will have done something in a very important way. What I am talking about is the fundamental freedom of every human being, man or woman, gay or straight, to form primary relationships, to fall in love, to develop relationships of caring, to make commitments to one another and to have those relationships treated with respect and dealt with equitably by the law."

(Continued on page 2)



State AIDS Funds Not Cut By Governor

Most Programs Remain Unchanged In Tight Budget Year

by Ray O'Loughlin

Lobbyists in Sacramento are pointing to what amounts to a virtual freeze in state AIDS spending but they're calling it success. When Gov. George Deukmejian submitted his \$47.8 billion budget for California, many programs took substantial cuts. But AIDS programs survived intact for the most part. A few even got modest raises.

"The silver lining is that it wasn't cut back," said Rand Martin, director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality.

"The governor didn't cut back or augment it either. It is a thin silver lining."

Deukmejian has proposed a total of \$102.8 million in state spending for AIDS in fiscal year 1989-90. Much of that comes from federal grants such as \$17.5 million for alternative treatments and anonymous testing.

The total AIDS expenditure represented a \$1.8 million rise in state AIDS spending overall. But most of that new money is going into only a few programs. The state health services department is scheduled to see a net addi-

tional \$3.6 million, bringing its total for AIDS programs to \$80.2 million.

Deukmejian also plans to spend almost \$900,000 to hire more guards at Vacaville and Chino State Prison Medical Centers. And a program to connect foster parents with children with HIV got another \$62,000 for its efforts.

Funds from Prop. 99, the cigarette tax initiative voters passed in November, will bring \$191,000 to AIDS programs. This year all that money is going to state prison programs.

The state subsidy for AZT is being cut entirely (\$2.5 million) because the federal government took over responsibility for AZT distribution last year. California has sufficient funds to maintain AZT subsidies through September.

Half a million dollars is being sliced from the education and information budget and \$2.8 million was cut from drug abuse and alcohol programs. The latter is expected to be restored and increased with new federal anti-drug money this year.

Funds not spent in last year's

budget (\$3.6 million) were simply deleted from the budget rather than rolled over to the new fiscal year. According to Martin, that's simply "\$3 million lost."

Also to be added into this fiscal year is the \$5.7 million that was mistakenly deleted from current-year appropriations for a new AIDS research center at San Francisco General Hospital.

But even though most AIDS services were not severely cut in a tight budget year, said Martin, the governor's budget amounts to a de facto cut in light of in-

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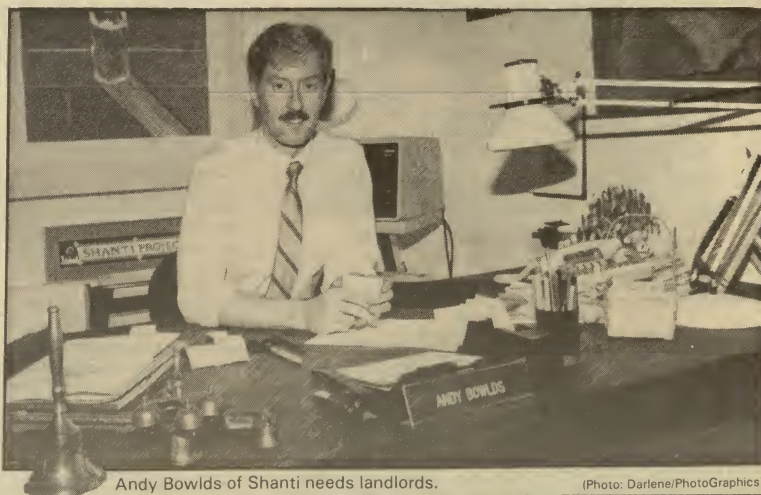
Shanti Needs Four Houses Very Soon

Must Be Out In 90 Days; Safety of Residents a Problem

by Dennis McMillan

Shanti Project is in urgent need of four new residences with three to four bedrooms under \$1250 a month to relocate people with AIDS who are currently members of the project's long-term residence program. There has been an increased number of assaults in neighborhoods which have become unsafe for Shanti residents, and some buildings now violate the fire code as well. Two of Shanti's landlords have sold their property and given eviction notices to two of the houses. Because of all that the moves have become mandatory within less than 90 days.

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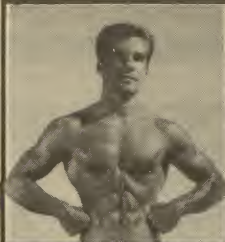


Andy Bowlds of Shanti needs landlords.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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AIDS Budget

(Continued from page 1)

creased caseloads and inflation.

For the first time, Deukmejian admitted that his proposed budget "does not adequately provide for all state government services." The constraints, according to the governor, include the increase to education mandated by Prop. 98, also passed by voters in November.

He also acknowledged, for the first time, according to LIFE, that the Gann spending limit is hampering the state's ability to develop an adequate budget. He has called on legislative leaders to assist him in adjusting the Gann limit.

The governor also claimed that statutory mandates and other requirements for cost-of-living increases have severely limited the flexibility of elected officials to fashion a budget.

No mention was made by Deukmejian in his budget message about the deficit caused by the 1987 state tax reform that has precipitated a \$1 billion shortfall in state revenues.

According to Martin, significant increases in the state budget are unlikely. "We won't add to it without a major fight, one that'll be hard for anybody to win," he said.

"The governor is not going to bend," he said.

Hard-nosed bargaining over the state budget will start in late May or early June.

On the legislative front in Sacramento, Martin said he expected 65 to 70 bills regarding AIDS to go before the Legislature. Last year over 140 AIDS bills went through the California Legislature.

Of those, he said, "very few are negative legislation and many are good, positive bills."

On the negative side, he mentioned three bills by Sen. John Doolittle. S.B. 7 would require written parental permission for children to attend any classes that might discuss sex. S.B. 37 calls for testing prisoners for HIV. S.B. 40 makes it a felony for anyone with HIV to have sex without informing his or her partner of the HIV status.

On the positive side, Martin said that LIFE would be lobbying heavily for Assemblymember Jackie Speier's A.B. 1600. The AIDS Early Intervention Bill would provide early comprehensive testing, counseling and treatment programs for those with HIV.

According to LIFE, A.B. 1600 represents the state of the art in the health profession's response to the AIDS epidemic and is the logical next step in minimizing the tragedy of AIDS.



Rand Martin

"We are hopeful that the cost of this program will be spread among private and public payors of health care," said Martin. "Our objective is to secure funding from private health insurers, county health departments and MediCal, the normal payors of health-care coverage. We don't believe that the state general fund, especially this year, should be liable for the entire cost."

Martin noted that early intervention will benefit the HIV-infected person and the insurer. "Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rochester, N.Y., recognized the benefits of early intervention and recently instituted a case-management program that intervenes with the HIV-infected person before the onset of more acute symptoms," he said. ▼

HRC Panel

(Continued from page 1)

In the case of gay men and lesbians, said Britt, "this has been a central part of a form of discrimination that has been taken against us. The denial of our ability to have relationships that are publicly recognized is part of a system of administering economic benefits in our society."

"So many times I have been asked in the last eight or nine years, 'Is this a gay issue? I want to say it is in the sense that it proceeds from the experience of lesbians and gay men who have been denied, in a very fundamental way, to form primary associations of partners and to live in relationships of mutual commitment in a way that involves respect for the ability to care for one another,'" she said.

He said that the right of people to form "primary relationships" is a fundamental human right and "I think that is what the domestic partners debate is all about."

Following his remarks to the commission, he said, "I am very hopeful of having a hearing on this legislation before the April meeting of the Human Services Committee of the board which is the second week in April."

He praised the city attorney's office and specifically Buck Delventhal for his assistance in working on the final drafts of the new law. "The city attorney is being extremely helpful in shaping the form the legislation takes," said Britt.

Mayor Art Agnos praised the commission for conducting the hearing. Agnos' appearance at the commission was viewed as a commitment to see the legislation become policy for San Francisco.

Roberta Achtenberg, speaking for the Lesbian Rights Project, said, "Unmarried partners and partners with children pay twice for what others pay for only

once." She said that unmarried partners face an economic disadvantage simply because of their status. "Maybe it goes without saying and maybe it cannot be said enough," she said.

She also commented, "It means something for every gay man or lesbian whether they are in a primary relationship or not, people who have experienced this discrimination whether they are gay or straight. It is difficult to create constructive family life in this society and when benefits are accorded to one group and not the other it makes it even more difficult."

Achtenberg called domestic partners an important first step. "In my view the symbolism is exceedingly important," she said.

She commented that she and her lover, Judge Mary Morgan, "will probably sign up as domestic partners. I am sure it will be a thrill to go down to City Hall and have a little bit of respect. I am looking forward to it."

Phyllis Lyon stood at the podium with her lover of 36 years, Del Martin. They both expressed concerns about the issue of confidentiality. "Given the tenor of the times, if somebody wants to torch a faggot's house all they have to do is go down to City Hall and look up the address. The same if they wanted to rape a lesbian," she said.

Attorney Matt Coles and Sup. Britt said they were sensitive to the confidentiality issue and have been working to respond to that concern.

Lyon praised the concept of the legislation. "If we could have done it in 1953, sure we would have done it. It is another stepping stone towards a time when our relationships will be recognized."

Maurice Belote, president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, said, "It

begins the process of legitimizing one of the most glaring examples of discrimination against our community. That is the important thing. Bereavement leave and hospital visits are very important in our lives."

Brian Mavrogeorge, former president of the gay Republican Log Cabin Club, said, "For me, this is a simple thing of justice. Myself, I have celebrated the 25th anniversary with my spouse and we had to go through unusual legal maneuvering to secure rights which are available to other people by simply getting married at City Hall. I had a religious ceremony so I am not seeking religious validation. Validation comes from me, not from society. What I want is justice and equality."

Comedian and part-time school teacher Tom Ammiano was one of many who spoke before the commission in their three hour meeting. "Now it is like we are pregnant with anticipation. The baby is almost here," he said. "My lover and I have been together for 10 years. For us to be together that long in a changing society means a lot to me. It signals my family that we were both adults. In terms of gay liberation we need to make another step. It signals acceptance. This is progress!"

Attorney Coles, who drafted the domestic partnership proposed legislation, emphasized, "We have always lived with the p.r. that family doesn't apply to us. The benefits are more important to me because they embody recognition of gay families in a tangible way."

After almost a decade of working on what is an historic piece of legislation, Coles commented, "I think that when this is finally voted in—and I think it will get voted in—I will have a personal celebration that will take your breath away." ▼

Quilt Takes Off For Utah, Will Return To D.C. In Fall

by Allen White

Approximately 2,400 of the 3-by-6-foot panels that make up the Names Project quilt left San Francisco on Tuesday to begin the 1989 national tour. Even before they left, the announcement was being made that the quilt will return to Washington, D.C. on the Columbus Day weekend in October.

The first city on the 1989 tour is Salt Lake City, Utah, where the display opens March 17 in the Salt Palace. Scott Lago, the tour director, commented, "We don't know what the reaction will be in Salt Lake City. The local host has got a lot of good positive feedback. In Salt Lake City homophobia is rampant, but the city council has voted to cut the fees for the facility in half and donate \$1,000 to the Names Project in Salt Lake. They have had a display in their state capital for the last two weeks of panels from Salt Lake City and they are doing wonderful things."

"On the other side," Lago said, "there is the homophobia and the ignorance and the fear about what we are trying to do and how that will manifest itself."

As the big white truck left San Francisco, there were several changes from last year. Dan Sauro, the media coordinator for the names Project, said, "Last year there were seven people who went out on the tour and stayed the entire time. This year is structured so more people have the opportunity to be on tour who are not a part of the staff. We put out the word to all our volunteers and through our staff to everyone who had been a part of the Names Project in the past. We said there was a certain number of slots on the tour and that it was non-salaried for a four-week period."

He noted the panels will be changed on the tour. Sauro said, "For the most part, the quilt will be geographically coded. The truck goes out and stays out for the entire time. However, there will be some change in the quilt panels and that will be a change. We will be switching the panel for geographic reasons."

All seem to agree that the biggest change in the 1989 tour will be the absence of Jack Caster. Caster was the tour director last year. He died two weeks ago of AIDS and the sense of loss hangs heavy over the Market Street Names Project workshop.

"This was Jack's baby," said Sauro. "Aside from the emotional impact of Jack not being here, there is the practical impact of his input. Scott has picked up the slack and everybody has pitched in."

"I think the year's experience helps us work with a lot more confidence. We know what we are doing. Problem solving has gotten a lot easier and trouble shooting is a lot easier," said Lago.

He added, "It is still that very homespun feeling. We have learned how to do this the quickest and easiest way. Last year we met with such little resistance that we felt this is a way to talk about AIDS and the issues that surround it that doesn't push people's buttons and that is good."

After the quilt leaves Salt Lake City it will head to Cincinnati and then to Columbus, Ohio.

From there, the tour moves in early April to Tampa and then to Miami on April 14. Birmingham, Ala., is the next city on April 21 and then Austin, Texas, on April 28 and Oklahoma City on May 5.

It will be in Philadelphia on May 12 and then in Rochester, N.Y., on May 19 and Portland, Me., on May 26.

In Canada

During the months of June and July, the Names Project will be in Canada starting in Halifax on June 2 and moving to Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and arriving in Vancouver on July 13. The last city on the 1989 tour is Anchorage, Alaska.

"We tried to honor requests from cities that are not the 20 largest. Cities that have the desire and that have the volunteers. They want us to come except for Tampa and Miami. We missed Florida last year and we

felt we just couldn't do that two years in a row," Lago said.

The cities on the 1989 tour will be different for other reasons. According to Lago, "The AIDS populations we are going to are not typical. Eighty-five percent of the hemophiliacs in Utah are HIV-positive. In Miami there are 60 families where the husband and the wife and all the children have AIDS. These are not what you would think of as your typical AIDS patient, gay, white, male living in an urban ghetto."

He continued, "But, the quilt is able to reach out to them and bring them into the AIDS community. There is a guy in Tulsa, Okla. He was making a panel for his wife and he wanted to turn it in in Oklahoma City, but he wanted us to save space for his quilt to be sewn in next to hers when he dies."

"That is no different from two lovers, but the demographics have changed. We have lots of



Volunteers load the truck for the Quilt tour.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

lovers that are sewn in together. We don't have many husbands and wives. That is how the epidemic is changing and we are trying to do the outreach we do. We are just trying to change our focus a bit."

"The gay community," he said, "has always been important to the quilt in terms of they're how we keep going and they like what we are doing and we are carrying their friends and lovers around and they want to see

them. It is important to them to keep going and in every city it is the gay community that gets the quilt displayed."

Dan Sauro also said the names Project will be returning to Washington, D.C. Planned for the Columbus Day weekend in October, he said they are also securing a "rain" site. For this third return to Washington, the outdoor location will again be the Ellipse, directly in front of the White House. ▼

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Find out about volunteer opportunities and training at Shanti on Wednesday, April 12. Training in Practical Support begins April 7, and in Emotional Support on April 21. Call 777-CARE.



Fed Poppers Ban Blocked By Suit

**Distributor Gets Restraining Order;
Claims Law Not Enforceable**

by Ray O'Loughlin

Despite a new federal statute prohibiting the distribution and sale of isobutyl nitrites—poppers—the substance remains available at Bay Area stores. One Los Angeles-based distributor has gone to federal court and obtained a court order blocking enforcement of the ban. Western International Distributors was granted a temporary restraining order Feb. 21.

The order prohibits federal enforcement officials from interrupting the manufacture, distribution and sale of Western's products which include Locker Room, Bullet, Thrust and nine other brand names for butyl nitrite "liquid scents." The order applies only to Western's products.

As of press time, it was unclear if other manufacturers had also sued to block enforcement of the law.

Clyde DeWitt, of the law firm Weston and Sarno, told Bay Area Reporter from his Los Angeles office that the action was taken to see if the federal law can be legally enforced.

"The issue is whether this law is self-executing or merely supplies guidelines," said DeWitt.

"The Consumer Products Safety Commission's regulatory procedures require hearings and judicial review," he said. "Congress has short-circuited that by passing this law."

The ban was incorporated as part of the 1988 Omnibus Drug Act passed by Congress last October. It provided for a national ban on all sales of all forms of isobutyl nitrites to go into effect Feb. 15.

Enforcement was halted by what DeWitt described as an "agreement not to enforce" the ban against Western. Other brands, as far as he knew, were liable for federal confiscation.

A hearing is expected soon to decide if the restraining order is to be extended.

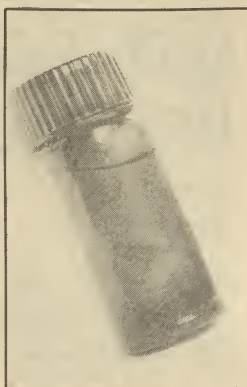
Arguing against the federal ban, DeWitt said that the Consumer Products Safety Commission has looked into butyl nitrites before and "declined to declare the stuff hazardous."

Also opposed to banning the substances was Patrick Batt, owner of Mercury Mail Order. Batt continues to sell one brand of nitrites at his 18th Street store.

"They ought to be legally available," he said. "They're not going to disappear. It'll only go underground. The price will go up, the quality will go down, and people will get ripped off. The ban is not going to be effective."

He said his store sells about "five or six" quarter-ounce bottles a day. He said there is still a sizeable market for poppers.

Batt said he believed there was a "peripheral connection" be-



tween AIDS and the use of nitrites. But, he said, "I won't moralize to my customers."

He added that he does "not push them" (nitrites). Customers must ask for nitrites since they are not displayed on shelves.

Batt said the products presented him with a "moral dilemma" that he "anguished over." He said it was someone's "personal choice" on whether or not to use them.

Ultimately, Batt believed that nitrites will be banned. "That'll create an underground that'll be worse," he said.

In New York City, where nitrites have been banned for over a year, they are sold on the street. Frequently, phony substances such as common bleach are sold as nitrites, according to Batt.

Studies have linked use of nitrites as inhalants with the development of full-blown AIDS, especially Kaposi's sarcoma. Some medical researchers believe nitrites inhibit the immune system's ability to fight off infections. They have called nitrites co-factors in AIDS. ▼

pathizers would understand this best."

Among the reasons for the upcoming moves are the fact that certain neighborhoods have changed character and become homophobic and AIDS-phobic. According to Smith, several Shanti residents have been repeatedly verbally threatened and harassed. She pointed out that this added unnecessary stress is harmful to people's already fragile health.

"These people should be able to go out of their house without having to deal with a potentially uncomfortable emotional situation," Smith said.

Shanti director of operations Andy Bowlds commented, "I'm having nightmares about this particular neighborhood, and quite frankly I want to get our people out of there before we have any major incidents."

He spoke about the urgency of time. "This happened to us all at once with all four houses, and the clock is ticking."

"We're not even talking about future program expansion," Smith said. "We just want to assure our current clients of a safe, high-quality living environment."

This could mean that landlords will have to rent at cost or absorb some of the cost, as their personal contribution to the AIDS epidemic.

People who can help out with this situation, or sensitive landlords willing to rent their property to accommodate people with AIDS should contact residence coordinator Andy Bowlds at 777-2273 as soon as possible. ▼

Shanti

(Continued from page 1)

Shanti Project presently provides 12 independent living residences which house 47 persons with AIDS at low cost. Last year shelter was given — in one women-only residence and 11 co-ed facilities — to 99 people.

Shanti is making an appeal to landlords willing to negotiate and possibly waive normal deposit fees. The rent is guaranteed by Shanti through a city contract with the Department of Public Health.

"As we all know, rentals in San Francisco are very expensive," said Holly Smith, media coordinator for Shanti. "And many landlords are reluctant to rent to us for fear of future loss of rental income and possible decrease of property values."

Smith recalled an example of AIDS discrimination run into by the S.F. AIDS Foundation emergency housing project when they had to move on short notice.

She did not hesitate to add, "All of our homes are confidential addresses, and this should have no adverse effect for potential landlords."

She pointed out that Shanti provides its own team of general maintenance, including repair, cleaning, and upkeep — all of which are duties which landlords would normally have to take the responsibility for themselves.

"We need to find landlords who are agreeable and see this as a contribution to people with AIDS," she said. "I think our own community and its sym-

City Clinics to Bill Patients But Will Expand Services

To Institute New Billing Procedures for Insurance; Budget Crunch Leads to Increased Services

by Dennis McMillan

The San Francisco Department of Public Health has announced a change in the near future regarding billing procedures at all its district health centers. San Francisco's estimated \$72 million budget deficit has forced the Health Commission to begin billing patients who can afford treatment at the centers. The good news, however, is that the public clinics will expand services to care for patients.

The commission explained that the annual cost of treating close to 600 AIDS patients at Health Center One is about \$60,000. But a lack of billing those who can pay has meant a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue for the center.

The new billing plan will affect all five of the health centers, including San Francisco General Hospital. It will be designed around a sliding scale fee depending on patient income.

The policy was adopted Feb. 7, although it has been under consideration for some time.

Beverly Hayon, director of public information for the health department, explained the need for a new billing policy. "The times have changed. City budgets as a whole are strained, health costs have gone up, and there is a change in philosophy. We realize that we serve more than just the medically indigent. While our mandate is to provide health care for those who have no other resources, nonetheless we feel that we should make every possible effort to collect fees wherever feasible."

Hayon explained that this could take the form of being reimbursed from the state or federal government, using private health insurance, or charging people who are able to pay.

She pointed out that health centers, traditionally providers of preventive care, have changed roles now with a substantial emphasis on primary care.

Booklet Released To Help Parents

"Why Is My Child Gay?" is a 16-page booklet published by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) with answers to the questions provided by 11 nationally known scientists in the fields of human development and sexual behavior. Among the respondents are Alan Bell, Richard Green, Evelyn Hooker, John Money and June Reinisch.

The booklet has 11 scientists address three questions: How is sexual orientation effected by genetic, hormonal, social or psychological factors? Do any of these factors determine sexual orientation alone? Can lesbian and gay men change their sexual orientation through therapy or other means?

The booklet also includes a reading list, information about the Kinsey Scale, and information about the PFLAG Federation with its over 200 chapters and contacts. Tineke Bodde, the author, is a medical writer and member of PFLAG.

One free copy is available to those who send a long, self-addressed stamped (\$4.50) envelope to PFLAG, PO Box 20308, Denver, CO 80220. ▼

She said that because of fiscal problems, health centers would have eventually come around to this point. But the AIDS crisis pushed the timeline ahead.

"One of the most dramatic impacts of AIDS is that the epidemic is showing all the flaws in our existing health care system," she said.

According to Dr. Sam Ho, medical director for community health programs in the department of public health, this change will mean expanded services, because Health Center One will no longer be the only clinic providing primary care to

AIDS patients. All centers will be able to extend the range of services offered.

"Practitioners will be on site more of the time, so not only will patients have more continuity of care in the sense of being able to see the same practitioner each time, but also that same practitioner will be able to provide more comprehensive services," said Ho.

He said that the new policy would in no way affect the medically indigent, but the department would become far more aggressive in pursuing avenues of reimbursement.



Health Center 1 may be expanding services.

(Photo: S. Savage)

Up until now, the centers have asked only for a \$5 flat fee, without looking into the financial resources of patients. For instance, the indigent were not asked for Medi-Cal or Medicare cards. Nor were patients with the ability to pay asked if they had private insurance, which will now be billed for services rendered at the centers.

Hayon said that this is a change that will be seen in many cities, and is not limited to San Francisco alone.

Ho said, "This is actually a positive change. This way we will be able to offer more services to

more people in a more continuous way."

San Francisco General is a good example of this change, he said. Since the hospital has increased the number of eligibility and billing clerks hired, this has had a direct effect on increased revenue.

Although the policy change will necessitate the hiring of a billing staff to process the paperwork at the neighborhood centers, the commission has promised that these costs will not dip into the nursing budget, which is protected by a memorandum of understanding. ▼

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

From The Primal Depths

The church bullies are at it again. From archbishops to ayatollahs, they seem to be on a rampage to once again bring the world to heel at their command. From the audacity of publicly urging the murder of novelist Salman Rushdie to increasingly insistent and violent demonstrations against a woman's right to choose an abortion, zealotry is on the rise.

What is it about religion that makes people crazy? Is religion some kind of left over from humanity's pre-civilized days, something we brought out of the caves and jungles? Is it some primal urge that breaks out of control every now and then to violently squelch the nobler aims of civilization? Instead of being uplifting, high minded and spiritual, too many religionists—it hardly matters what denomination—seem very firmly rooted in the muck they criticize in others.

One thing to be said for right wing religious movements is that they don't mess around. They don't plead for a hearing or try to bargain for justice. They go right for the jugular—blow up that abortion clinic, shoot that commie queer for Christ. Progressives hope to make a little room for diversity; the right wing church types don't hesitate to try to force everyone, believer or not, to do things their way or else. They may call it love and compassion but force and power are their real names.

Once again civilization in all its fragility is up against the wild-eyed fanatics of the churches. One of the keys to civilization is a respect for others even if, or especially if, you don't agree with them. You may state your case but you do not trample on others who may see the sacred in other directions. In the last "Dark Ages" it was the church that saved the remnants of civilization. Now, the church may bring on a new Dark Age.

For civilization to survive, it has to be guaranteed that violence and power be curbed. We're in trouble, folks.

It is odd to look at the gentleness that Christians admire and talk about and then look at what they do. They are not content to have the

freedom to practice their ways. The tolerance granted to them they have no intention of respecting or reciprocating. It is that intolerant urge that must be controlled for the good of society.

Here in San Francisco, we are debating the idea of extending to non-married couples some benefits traditionally reserved for married people. A number of domestic partner plans are being considered (at a later date, we'll comment on specific proposals). But already the local Roman Catholic archdiocese is trying to block the discussion of the idea. A columnist for the diocese's magazine urges that local religionists make their "political will" known to stop the plan, any plan. It is another attempt by church officials to skewer the political process.

If this city is to adopt a domestic partners plan, it should be decided in the secular arena that has been duly established to determine public policy. The churches can just butt out, thank you. They may preach anything they want, no matter how hateful or downright stupid it may be (they've rarely hesitated to do so). But they are not entitled to bully and subvert the political system to have their way.

No law is being proposed that would hinder their practices. Claiming that something is "deeply offensive" to them is not a sufficient reason to deprive others of justice. If democracy is to work, it requires not a tyranny of whoever can generate enough mail to look like a majority but a respect for very different views. What is needed is some good faith. After all, the churches benefit from that same principle in being allowed to freely and openly practice their different beliefs. Historically, their own rights to co-exist aren't that old and could just as easily be taken away.

But zealots don't study history. They always presume in their self-righteousness that after they chop off every head that disagrees with them, the world will go their way. But usually all they create is a climate of violence and usually their own heads roll as well. It may seem outlandish to dump archbishops and ayatollahs in the same basket, but it is that urge to dominate at any cost that unites them. ▼

OPINION

How To Get The N.Y. Times To Apologize

by Urvashi Vaid,
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

A New York Times story on lesbian childbearing, which ran in late January and was the first story by a national paper on the subject, contained grave inaccuracies and bias. As a result of immediate protest by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), the Lesbian Rights Project, the American Civil Liberties Union's Gay & Lesbian Rights Project and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the offensive paragraphs were retracted by the Times in an unprecedented "Editor's Note" which appeared on Feb. 3.

The article in the Times entitled "Lesbians Find The Means To Be Parents" was written by Times reporter Gina Kolata. Kolata has written extensively on AIDS and is one of the most respected national print reporters covering AIDS issues.

The story Kolata submitted to her editors was not the story that finally appeared. Without notifying Kolata or securing her approval, editors at the Times wrote an entire paragraph which contained negative and biased statements about lesbians, and children raised by lesbian families. The story was also rearranged to give prominence to the anti-gay views of a sociologist at a Catholic college and also misquoted another prominent psychiatrist. No quotes were contained in the story from psychologists whose research shows that there is no harm to children raised in gay and lesbian households.

The most offensive paragraph in the story, a paragraph not written by Kolata, read: "Some clinicians, however, speculate that in the long term, girls might have difficulty in intimate relationships with men, and boys might be uncomfortable with their roles as males. If lesbian parents are openly hostile toward men, these difficulties could be worsened."

From the date the article was published (Jan. 30), NGLTF's Urvashi Vaid began an organizing process aimed at registering the strongest protest with the senior editorial staff of the Times. I contacted everyone who had been quoted in the piece, as well as fellow groups like GLAAD, ACT UP, ACLU and others to urge them to call and write the paper.

The quick and widespread pressure we were able to generate through a range of groups resulted in the Editor's Note.

The Editor's Note acknowledged that the comments cited were "added in the editing process." The note continued: "[The comments] did not fairly reflect a spectrum of views among behavioral scientists and ethicists about possible effects of being reared by lesbian parents. In the absence of evidence that hostility toward men is common among lesbian parents, the reference to such hostility was unwarranted. The article should have given lesbian parents a chance to respond to concerns raised by others."

The note also addressed the misquotation attributed to psychiatrist Dr. Richard Green.

In response to a detailed 4-page letter from NGLTF to top New York Times editors, Assistant Managing Editor Allan M. Siegal wrote "My colleagues and I share your dismay at the way the story turned out. I think we have a great deal of educating to do about the process in this office, in particular about the right and duty of staff members to debate one another's suggestions and to deflect or appeal those that are untoward."

In telephone conversations with New York Times editor Carl Lavin, the weekend staff during whose watch the editing of Kolata's story occurred, GLAAD Executive Director Craig Davidson criticized the negative stereotyping contained in the article. A letter by the ACLU's Nan D. Hunter also countered the biased statements of the quoted experts. Both Vaid and Hunter's letters contained requests for a meeting with all persons involved in the story—a request that is still pending.

The unprecedented nature of the Editor's Note indicates that the error and the protests have been taken seriously by the paper's editor. While the Times is to be commended for its responsiveness to just criticism, the fact that we had to go through this exercise to do damage control on what was the first major national story on this issue indicates how far we still have to go in securing fair coverage of our lives. ▼

Exasperation

The following was sent to Gov. George Deukmejian:

★ Stuart McDonald is risking his life over a principle; like many others, I am horrified, angry, and confused.

I have written to you in the past about discrimination against gays and lesbians in California. I have been continuously dismayed because you refuse to acknowledge that such discrimination exists in our state. Each time you veto a bill aimed at ending discrimination, you claim that there is no need for such legislation, even though the Legislature — representing the majority of Californians — expresses its conviction to the contrary.

As a gay man I have been discriminated against in housing, and so I know, first-hand, that such discrimination exists. What I cannot know — because you will not tell us — is why you continue to refuse to believe the Legislature or your own state agencies that provide you data on this issue.

Related to the discrimination against gays and lesbians is the discrimination against those who suffer from AIDS or ARC. Last year AB78 was passed to deal with a real need, and as in the past, you vetoed it, claiming once again that such discrimination does not exist. Like so many others I know, I have become so exasperated by your actions that I have simply resigned myself to wait you out and hope that the next governor of California will be able to deal more compassionately with those who are suffering.

But Stuart McDonald, a man of incredible conscience and remarkable fortitude, has decided he can wait no longer. He has decided to challenge you directly and openly, to call you to account for the stand you have taken on anti-discrimination legislation over the past several years. He has asked you to answer publicly (and explicitly) for your vetoes. He has asked for your support in helping to deal with discrimination in this state.

I have difficulty accepting Mr. McDonald's hunger strike; a part of me fears that by writing letters in support of the issues he is now fighting for (and apparently willing to die for), I may be in some way contributing to his death.

As governor, you help set the moral climate in the state. Stuart McDonald is joined by many others — including myself — who feel you are not carrying out your responsibility very well. How long will you continue to ignore the social problem that Stuart challenges you to address? Won't you find that it is at last time for you to present yourself as a moral leader and call for an end to discrimination in California?

William Sweigart
San Francisco

Know Your DJs

★ Concerning Jim O'Brian's comments on the Salute to Sylvester Party (March 9), he should be aware that any producer's claim that a DJ is the "hottest" DJ in the city is usually opinionated hype. Billboard Magazine used to award this honor to disc jockeys by regional standing, but that was stopped ages ago.

More important is the fact that, any DJ, without exception, is judged as "good" or "bad" in accordance with the taste of the people hearing his music. Thus, if his taste in music meshes with theirs, they will say he was "good" even if they have so little knowledge of the truly good music available that they cannot make a qualified statement on this subject. Taste is a matter of opinion. Quality is not. If they dislike his music, they will say it was bad, with the same condition attached.

Additionally, any party given on a holiday weekend (like this one) is a bunch of musical compromises. The DJ, if he is capable, will play "hits" to be sure that the out-of-towners aren't left asking, "What is this song?! I never heard it before!" It has always been this way and it is one of the drawbacks (artistically speaking) of a "holiday" party.

People should realize what the 70s partygoing crowd know: know your DJ, and be sure you like his music. Otherwise, you can join the "you pays your money and you takes your chances" crowd. Would you go to any event without knowing who was appearing (performing, singing, etc.)? The DJ is creating a performance on the spot. Pay attention to your taste — and his!

I knew in advanced what the music would be like, and knowing, went anyway. I did not find it to be generic "B-side" music. I actually remember nearly all the songs and they were mostly top-40-type music for the first few hours. The music he did play that was not a "hit" was actually quite "progressive" dance music. I have made it a point to hear nearly every "hyped" DJ, including those from New York, who are usually not nearly as good as people would have us believe, and Chris Jordan was decent when ranked among these guys.

A good disc jockey should be ahead of his crowd, musically speaking, not just current, but progressive.

Glen McLeod
San Francisco

Recognition

The following letter was sent to the Board of Directors of the Cable Car Awards:

★ Each year I look forward to the Cable Car Awards with anticipation. I really appreciate the recognition they give to such a wide variety of contributions both from within and to the gay/lesbian community.

This year, I was disappointed to see that the category for photography/photo journalist had been dropped. The San Francisco Bay Area gay/lesbian community is very fortunate to have a number of fine photographers who chronicle our many newsworthy and noteworthy events and keep a vivid record of our history. I am sure that a few people realize that most of this is done at their own considerable expense with little monetary compensation.

When there were arguments over the number in attendance at the March on Washington, our photographers had the images to support the fact that we were over 500,000 strong. They have also brought events such as the march, the quilt, parades, street fairs, and sporting events to those who were unable to see them in person. And it is quite likely that the outstanding journalism which has been recognized by the Cable Car Awards would have less impact without the accompanying photographs.

I sincerely hope that you will reinstate this category for next year's awards. The art and contributions of our photographers deserve all the recognition they can get.

M. Janet Allen
Albany

Distress Signal

★ May Day! May Day! That is an international signal of distress. Why not be heard this coming May Day, Monday, May 1?

Can you imagine how many people across the country would be made aware if every gay person called in "sick"? Every gay from bartenders, cashiers, bankers, taxi drivers, politicians, hair dressers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, telephone operators, bus drivers, business owners, technicians, airline workers, police, government workers, priests, teachers.

The list has no end if every gay would be willing to give up a day's wages, it could be a major contribution in getting our point heard.

This is a distress signal. Help! Do something now! Monday, May 1 — May Day! Gay Day!

Rocky Rockwood
San Francisco

Gratitude

The following was sent to the Bar Association of San Francisco:

★ I would like to express my gratitude and support for the courageous and progressive stance of the board in supporting a resolution to modify California law to grant marital status to all couples, straight or gay. I especially wish to let you know that many members of the Bar Association of San Francisco, myself included, fully support your action in this regard, and approve the expenditure of our dues in this effort.

I expect you will receive no end of hate mail from many members whose prejudices blind them to the social realities of the 20th century, and who presume to speak for "the majority" without any basis other than their personal beliefs of what is morally right, not just for themselves, but for all others as well. I urge you to stand firm in your position, with the knowledge that you are not without considerable support among your membership, who are very proud of your efforts.

David R. Gellman
San Francisco

No Discrimination

★ Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation (TNDC) has a commitment to providing affordable housing for all low income people, including those with AIDS and ARC.

Your recent article (Feb. 2), on the opposition of some of TNDC's tenants to a PWA program in the Civic Center Residence may have left some readers with the erroneous impression that we condoned the discrimination of some tenants, which you quoted. TNDC welcomes people with AIDS and ARC in our housing and does not discriminate or discourage such people from living in our buildings.

Kathleen Connolly
Chair, Board of Directors
John Stern
Executive Director, Tenderloin
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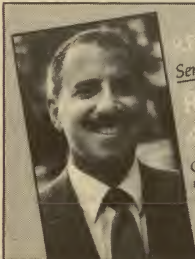
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LETTERS

Lack of Compassion

The following was sent to Gov. George Deukmejian

★ I have learned from the radio and press that Stuart A. McDonald plans to continue his hunger strike until death if necessary to bring you to the realization that the everyday discrimination which oppresses gay people and people (gay or nongay) with AIDS, ARC, or those who are HIV+, is a matter of life and death.

Mr. McDonald told me over the phone yesterday when I called that you have not yet contacted him directly over the issue. I strongly urge you to do so and to heed his demand that you publicly commit yourself to the sponsorship or support of comprehensive legislation (such as that which you have previously vetoed) which would prohibit discrimination in at least employment and housing against gay and lesbian Californians and against Californians with AIDS, ARC, or HIV positivity. I, myself, have been a victim of one of these types of discrimination.

Time is of the essence. Mr. McDonald's hunger strike calls attention to the fact that action is needed immediately. Mr. McDonald is now in the 55th day of his strike in which he has already lost 55 pounds. He told me yesterday that he is down to "skin and bones" and cannot afford to lose any more weight. Let us remember that Mr. McDonald is already ill with ARC, so his loss of weight further compounds his illness.

The legislation Mr. McDonald and I and many, many other Californians want and need has had the support of the legislature and requires your support. Do so now or expect to face a California public angered over your lack of compassion and principle.

On a final note I also agree with Mr. McDonald that there is a need for you to immediately adopt an extensive statewide educational program to counteract pervasive homophobic and AIDS-related bigotry.

As a fellow California taxpayer I urgently request and demand action by you to meet these crucial needs.

Richard M. Beilke
San Francisco

For the Record

The following was sent to the S.F. Chronicle:

★ O, well done, editor! Another sensationalist piece of gay-bashing masquerades as investigative journalism. Dawn Garcia's article on unsafe sex at private clubs was heavy on emotion and short on facts — or evidence of unsafe sex. Even the Chronicle reporter who visited a club (not Ms. Garcia), wrote that patrons were watching videos and buying beer, adding almost as an afterthought, "and engaging in oral and manual sex." Unsafe? Possibly, but hardly the stuff of a Roman orgy.

However, while it may be valid to report unsafe sex as news, why confine it to gays? The whole tone of the article was, "Look, these disgusting homosexuals are at it again." For the record — this has been repeated *ad nauseam* but apparently it needs to be said again — I would point out: gay men invented "safe sex"; gay men were the first to produce candid educational pamphlets about it, despite religious, state and federal opposition; gay men were campaigning for public awareness about AIDS when the media didn't want to know; gay men were protesting government inaction when the government and the media didn't want to know; gay men started most of the AIDS support groups; gay men founded the majority of the AIDS organizations — the litany is endless.

But more important perhaps, are survey results — recently given in your own paper, which show that the overwhelming majority of gay men have drastically modified their sexual behavior in response to the epidemic. Yes, there will always be those who haven't.

But just a minute. Judging by the birth rate, there are a hell of a lot more straights than gays out there having unsafe sex. Is Ms. Garcia going to write an article about them? Or, with the number of infants with AIDS becoming the fastest growing category, is she going to tell me they are not at risk?

K. Orton Williams
San Francisco

Responsibility the Answer

★ There was an expose in the Chronicle about sex clubs "flourishing" again South of Market. One much quoted source was a gay man, outraged at this taking place. I am not going to bother to address the Chronicle. It's obvious that straights won't be happy until we gay folk stop having any sex at all. I will address the gay man quoted in the article.

It's not where you do it; it's what you do. Unsafe sex can be done at home. The question is, is oral sex unsafe? I have never seen anal sex at Clementina St. Also condoms are available for free there. Don't assume that everyone there is into unsafe sex. Don't sacrifice your sexual life because of the plague.

If the authorities again attack the sex clubs, they

will simply pop up in another form, somewhere. Sex is natural. Sex is good. Precautions must be taken and, yes, some people will foolishly not protect themselves. But homo-sex won't stop.

Take responsibility for yourself. Assume everyone is HIV-positive and play accordingly. It all begins with the individual. But close the sex clubs? It won't work. Personal responsibility is the answer. It is always the answer.

Tadgh O'Shields
San Francisco

Until It Works

★ Open letter to the California gay community:

On Jan. 2, I began a hunger strike to urge the federal and California state governments to enact comprehensive laws which prohibit and adequately redress anti-gay and AIDS-related forms of discrimination. As of today (March 7) I have lost over 60 pounds. Although still active, time is obviously getting very short.

There are five events which would get me out of this hunger strike; they are: 1) Gov. Deukmejian publicly commits himself to support and sign previously vetoed legislation which prohibits and redresses anti-gay and AIDS-related forms of discrimination; 2) public commitments from enough state legislators to override the governor's veto; 3) President Bush publicly commits himself to support and sign both types of anti-discrimination legislation on a federal level; 4) public commitments from enough federal legislators to override a presidential veto; or 5) Sen. Pete Wilson publicly commits himself now to support and sign both types of anti-discrimination legislation on a state level — if and when he is elected governor of California — and immediately signs on as a co-sponsor of the federal gay rights bill now being sponsored by Sen. Alan Cranston.

Since all of the viable Democratic gubernatorial candidates have been consistent supporters of both types of anti-discrimination measures, the addition of Pete Wilson (the only viable Republican candidate for governor) will ensure the enactment of these laws no matter who becomes our next governor. It should be mentioned that Sen. Wilson is already a co-sponsor of the federal legislation prohibiting HIV-related forms of discrimination.

Obviously, there are many fronts to fight on in this war against bigotry, poverty, and societal neglect. I have limited my fight (and my hunger strike) to the passage of sorely needed anti-discrimination laws.

A friend of mine recently went to the Sacramento offices of several state Assembly and Senate members. He was told, by all of them, that — before his visit — the only recent contact they had received from individual members of this state's gay community (regarding passage of these anti-discrimination laws) was from me (and regarding my hunger strike).

Individual members of the gay community must begin to regularly contact political office-holders, in order to get them to support these anti-discrimination laws. Write letters and make phone calls to President Bush, to federal legislators (of all parties), to Gov. Deukmejian, and to California state legislators (of all parties). Political office-holders tally phone calls and letters. If there are few (or no) letters or phone calls pushing for the enactment of these anti-discrimination laws, political office-holders interpret this silence to mean that the situation is not urgent and the laws may not be needed. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Don't whine and complain about inept and self-serving individuals and groups who currently lead the fight for our rights. To help save your fellow gays, you have an obligation to stand up now and be counted. Educate yourself. Write letters. Make phone calls. Do it now. Do it often. Do it until it works.

Stuart A. McDonald
San Francisco

AIDS Lottery

The following was sent to Donald Francis, M.D., chair of the Mayor's AIDS Task Force.

★ I have given considerable thought concerning the economic crisis surrounding AIDS disease. The drain on the city and state treasuries is enormous now and will grow worse in the coming years. My suggestion to help raise revenue is that San Francisco develop a pilot program for an AIDS lottery.

The present state lottery for education is a great success and raises millions of dollars weekly. Since the mechanics for a lottery are already in place and are sound, little time would be needed to work out the details.

I strongly believe that an AIDS lottery would be a huge success. Many people would buy tickets knowing that the funds raised would be used for AIDS services. People would also feel they have personally helped others without committing their own time. Also, many would buy tickets simply in the hope of winning.

Ronald E. Bayles
San Francisco

Problems at the Y

The following was sent to the YMCA regarding the sustaining campaign fundraising drive:

★ I have been a member of the San Francisco Central YMCA for several years and was a participant in last year's Sustaining Campaign. In that campaign I came to feel there were certain deficiencies with the approach taken by the Central YMCA in its fundraising efforts, and I communicated my concerns and suggestions to a variety of staff and administrative personnel. At the time little, if anything, was done to address these issues. I recently had an opportunity to review the literature being utilized in this year's campaign. It would appear nothing has changed.

The issue is AIDS. The fundraising brochures which I was given last year were, to my understanding, designed to help volunteers educate potential donors as to the mission and goals of the Central YMCA and to inform them as to the uses to which their monies would be put. Programs for seniors, for children, and other laudable endeavors were among the articulated goals set forth in the brochure for this slick, professionally produced literature said nothing about AIDS.

I inquired of several staff members as to what, if anything, the Central YMCA was doing on this issue. I was told, very informally, that the YMCA was doing two things: Central apparently offers fitness center scholarships to those who can demonstrate financial need. Though this program is not specifically designed for people with AIDS, a number of scholarship recipients were, in fact, PWAs.

Secondly, I was informed that, after much drawn-out debate, the Board of Directors of the Central YMCA had, in August of 1987, finally made its first foray into the phenomenon of AIDS by voting to begin some sort of nutritional counseling program for PWAs. (As of this time last year the nutritional program had not been implemented or funded; its status as of this date is unknown to me. If it now exists, it is certainly not publicized.)

My lack of enthusiasm as a volunteer was equally matched by donors whom I approached for donations. When I solicited contributions from acquaintances, many of whom were "Y" members, invariably the first question asked was "What is the YMCA doing for AIDS?" Make no mistake about it, many chose not to contribute to the Sustaining Campaign because of the perceived inaction on this issue.

Recently I was approached by a volunteer coordinator to again join the 1989 fundraising efforts for the Central YMCA. I declined, and specifically stated my reasons. I repeat to you here, in reviewing 1989 Sustaining Campaign literature it seems little has changed from last year, that the Central YMCA is doing little about AIDS and, if it is doing something, it is not interested in publicizing it.

I, and many other members of the fitness center, are gay men. In fact, I would estimate that at least 60 percent of your male membership is gay. I simply do not understand how you can expect to raise money for all of your activities when you apparently do so little for an issue that has a great impact on a large percentage of your dues-paying membership.

Andrew Vincent Alder
San Francisco

Give Me Your Money

★ "Let them demonstrate all they want, just as long as they pay their taxes." —Alexander Haig

Why do many of us continue to let our dollars be drafted for war? How many of us refused to let our bodies be drafted for war during Vietnam? How many of us feel now that our government spends more for the military, the war in Central America and political payoffs than to world peace and domestic social justice? How many of us are aware that 60 percent of every federal tax dollar we pay goes to repay past military debts and to support current military expenditures, while only 0.02 percent goes to support AIDS efforts?

For me, paying federal income taxes is analogous to someone coming to my door and saying, "Give me some of your money so I can spend most of it to buy guns and kill your neighbors down the street."

My conscience will no longer let me tolerate such priorities and I invite others with similar concerns of conscience to join me in exploring yet another avenue of affecting social change. Northern California War Tax Resisters will hold a workshop discussing a "how-to" nuts-and-bolts approach to war tax resistance on Sunday, March 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the MCC of San Francisco, 150 Eureka St. (call NCWTR at 843-9877 for more information).

War tax resistance is a worldwide movement offering one way to protest a government's deadly spending priorities. By refusing to pay all or part of our federal income taxes we can direct our dollars to the life supporting services so desperately needed in our communities. Surely some tax money goes for good programs. Social Security and state taxes are separate from federal income tax and are not the target

of war tax resistance.

War tax resistance can be done in many different ways with differing levels of risk. Arguments can be made that less radical forms of protest exist (writing letters to the editor or to Congress, volunteering time and money to needy agencies, marches, and even participation in nonviolent civil disobedience). All are valid and I have done and continue to do all of these. However, throughout all of this I find myself hypocritically giving my tax dollars to the government to finance the very programs about which I protest. My conscience suffers and I see Alexander Haig smirking.

Tim Sally
San Francisco

Support Groups

★ I want to thank the B.A.R. for printing a few months back my letter concerning other men to join our support group for those currently testing seronegative. The response was overwhelming. No only did we immediately fill up our group, but we were also able to spin off two other HIV- support groups.

The groups are leaderless and meet once a week. Topics are limitless, but seem to center around survivor guilt, hope and despair, expressing grief, dating and sex, overcoming our isolation and the distances between us, the joys and hardships of coping with our day to day experiences.

There is clearly the need for people to connect and share their lives in the midst of this crisis. We would like to continue spinning off as many groups as needed.

If you're interested or want more information, please call Ed or Paul at 282-2105 and leave your name and number. Thanks.

Ken Wolff
San Francisco

An Apology

The following was received by Mark White in response to his letter of protest to Franklin Wordmaster, a computerized thesaurus.

★ On behalf of Franklin Computer, this apology is extended to you, as well as to the gay community generally, for the inclusion of certain terms in our product that you first pointed out to me.

As we have discussed over the telephone, Franklin has already taken steps to make changes to the underlying database of our product to eliminate certain terms complained of which were included in connection with the entry word "homosexual." We hope that you will support Franklin's commitment to undertake these efforts to effect this change.

Gregory J. Winsky
Vice President, Administration
General Counsel
Franklin Computer
Mt. Holly, N.J.

Oral Sex is Safe Sex

★ For about 25 years I have been an out-front gay activist, and find myself again enraged at public health officials, whose views of sex are still based on politics, not on medical science. In Dawn Garcia's Chronicle article of March 10, several so-called authorities are quoted, directly and indirectly, as stating that oral sex is a high-risk activity, presumably—in context—as spreading AIDS. There is no medical basis for this view, even though it is given out as if it were medical gospel.


Enclosed is a copy of a report, quoting the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop, as saying: "There has never been a documented case to my knowledge of the transmission of the AIDS virus by oral sex." The article also quotes various other statements by Dr. Koop and his press secretary.

As far as AIDS is concerned, oral sex is not high risk, it is not medium risk, and it is not low risk. It is in fact no risk at all. I am appalled and horrified at our public health officials who, although they should know better, continue to preach such lies.

Not just gay men, but everyone, needs to be clear that oral sex can transmit syphilis and hepatitis, especially. However, due to the new wave of safe-sex practices in the gay community and elsewhere, those risks have in recent years actually decreased. I have tried repeatedly to talk to various public health officials and to others in private agencies, but have been given only the brush-off. I hope to God the Chronicle is not going to be drawn willy-nilly into the creation of another anti-gay witch hunt.

Don Miesen
San Francisco

Ed. Note: A number of research studies have concluded that oral sex is low-risk activity. But none have gone so far as to state that there is absolutely no risk involved. Cuts in the mouth, for example, could lead to virus transmission.



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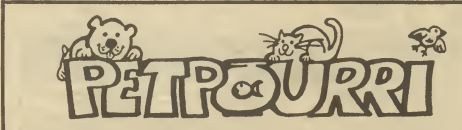
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Gov. Moonbeam Strikes Again

No sooner had the stories about California Democrats' new state chair started fading than Jerry Brown goes out and hires a disciple of Assemblyman Tom Hayden as the party's new executive director. Paul Rosenblum, a former Buddhist monk, is to become the Democrats' new finance director.

What does this do once again to the image that Jerry Brown seemed so intent on changing? Well, more than one Democrat is saying "I told you so." Just when the party was beginning to think a more traditional political look was what it needed to win some of those "Reagan Democrats" back, Chairman Brown goes out

and hires the former executive director of Campaign California, the political organization founded by Hayden and bankrolled with royalties from his estranged wife Jane Fonda's original exercise video.

If you are totally unfamiliar with Rosenblum's name, consider yourself in good company. After having completed 11 years as a Buddhist monk, Rosenblum recently formed his own consulting firm, a group that actually specializes in non-profit fundraising. Almost totally unknown in political circles, Rosenblum met Brown when Jerry was himself studying Buddhism.

One San Francisco checkbook Democrat openly wondered if

one who has recently made his living in the non-profit field would be able to cut it in raising funds with Democratic party fat cats. Others are saying that "Jerry has managed to make yet another controversial move" within weeks after taking over the leadership of the party and "the Republicans and their consultants will surely have a field day with this."

Some Democrats are openly wringing their hands now that the Brown/Haydenization of their party has apparently got off to a quick start and these party regulars are clearly worried about the course the party has apparently taken.

Who said the term of Jerry Brown as chair of the Democratic party would be a dull one?

In political circles in both San Francisco and Sacramento there is a rumor that won't go away. Rumor has it that veteran State Sen. Milton Marks is supposedly in poor health and might retire at the end of his term, if not before. Marks, re-elected only last November, is not up again for re-election until 1992. But already there are those who are convinced he will not serve out his term. Plans on succeeding him are quietly being formed in many a backroom.

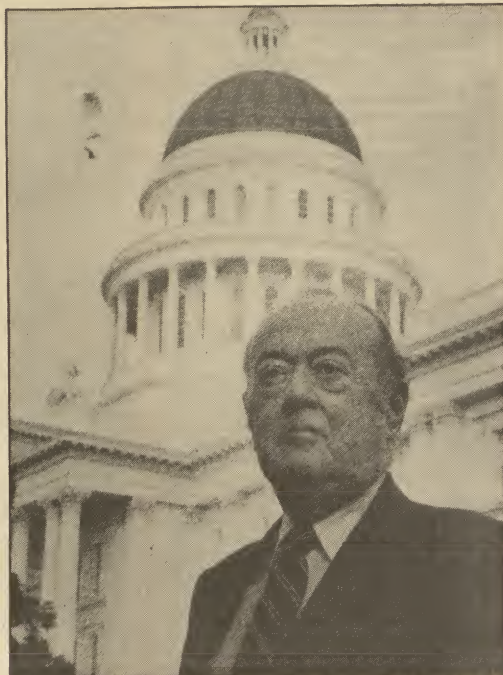
One scenario, supposedly with the backing of Speaker Willie Brown, has Assemblyman John Burton (Yes, there is an Assemblyman John Burton despite the fact we hear nothing from him) running for the Senate. Others say that Sup. Nancy Walker, Marin Sup. Gary Giacomini, Bill Maher, and former Sup. Jack Molinari would be possible candidates.

Despite all this early political jockeying, Milton Marks tells the Bay Area Reporter that he is "feeling fine" and has no intentions of stepping down. Marks, in fact, insists that he now plans to seek election again in 1992. He points out that he is currently chair of the Elections Committee and wants to have a voice in the reapportionment that will take place after the 1990 census.

Sen. Marks was first elected to the State Senate in 1967 after having served nine years in the Assembly.

Around City Hall they are saying that a number of political types are quietly encouraging Sup. Wendy Nelder to challenge City Attorney Louise Renne for her job the next time around. Nelder admits she's "thinking" about it.

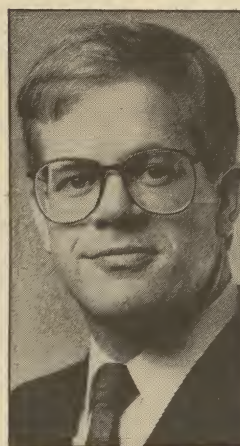
With last week's Police Officer's Association (POA) dumping



Senator Milton Marks

of President Bob Barry in favor of patrolman Mike Keyes, political watchers are saying that the coziness between the powerful union and Mayor Art Agnos will definitely cool. A number of other local politicians will now have trouble getting the valued POA endorsement as well.

Interestingly, one of the POA officials closest to the Mayor's Office, Vice President Paul Chignell (who retained his seat by a bare 25 votes) laid Barry's defeat at the door of the mayor.



Rep. Cal Anderson, openly gay member of the Washington legislature.

"There's no question about it, Agnos was the issue in this election," he said.

In New York they are eagerly awaiting a new book co-written by N.Y. Cardinal John O'Connor and Mayor Ed Koch—*His Eminence and Hizzoner* (William Morrow & Co., \$18.95). It's due out in a couple of weeks. In the sure-to-be bestseller, O'Connor predictably restates his position against giving gays equal rights, giving out condoms to fight the spread of AIDS, and spews the strict Catholic Church line.

On AIDS, Koch says, "It's a source of fear and irrational feelings for many Americans, and I am among them," (?) while Cardinal O'Connor says, "once a person has acquired this frightful disease, my concern is with the fact that a person has AIDS. Regardless of how the disease was acquired, he or she deserves every bit of care and, indeed, love."

In Washington state, the proposed Gay/Lesbian Civil Rights Bill (HB2072) was defeated last week when the State Senate's Government Committee killed it by taking it off the agenda. "The loss of this bill is a major setback for the lesbian and gay community," claimed State Rep. Cal Anderson (D-Seattle), the state's only openly gay legislator.

(Continued on next page)

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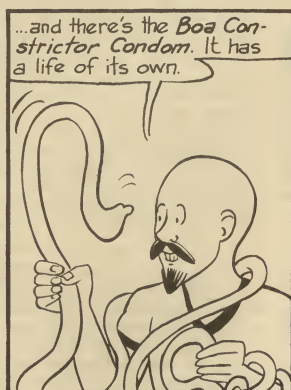
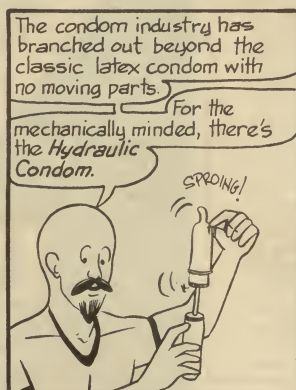
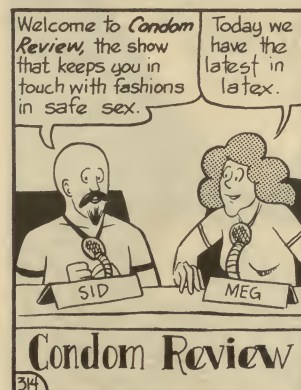
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MURPHY'S MANOR



The Final Step

In September, 1986, when Eric left me a note begging for help, I did my best. Really I did. I found him a counselor, but it didn't do any good. He met with the counselor once, maybe twice, and that was it. Then he made a new boyfriend, Vance, who proved to be a disastrous influence. Vance had two things that Eric didn't need—good drugs and the money to buy them. Soon, Eric was talking of moving in with Vance.

I wasn't surprised. "Since breaking up with Andre," I wrote, "Eric has developed a habit of depending on people to make things easy for him. He is determined to avoid the 'real world' as long as possible. He is a weakling and a user, and I am a weakling too, for letting him use me."

I didn't allow Eric to use me for long. When he returned to drug dealing, I merely said, "Fine. Be that stupid." But when I found him cutting drugs for a customer in my apartment, we both decided it was best for him to move elsewhere. By that time, I didn't care if Eric solved his problems or not. I only wanted him out of my hair.

I wish the story ended here, but it doesn't. For the next year and a half, Eric periodically reentered my life. One night, he showed up at 3 a.m. in the company of a policeman, rambling incoherent nonsense about the mafia and attempted murder. I wanted to say to him, "Get a grip," but he was too far gone. Following a similar encounter, it briefly crossed my mind that if only Eric would overdose, I

wouldn't have to worry about him any more.

In June, 1987, Eric at last admitted he was an addict. But he added, "So what's wrong with that? I've accepted it. Lots of people are addicted to all kinds of things, and they lead happy, productive lives. But just because I use speed, that's supposed to make me bad. I'm sick of the hypocrisy of it all."

The flaw in Eric's argument, of course, was that there was nothing happy or productive about his life. He was broke and homeless, and his health was beginning to suffer. I couldn't believe he didn't see that for himself. Yet, as I noted, "The man is hardly the most rational creature in the world at this point."

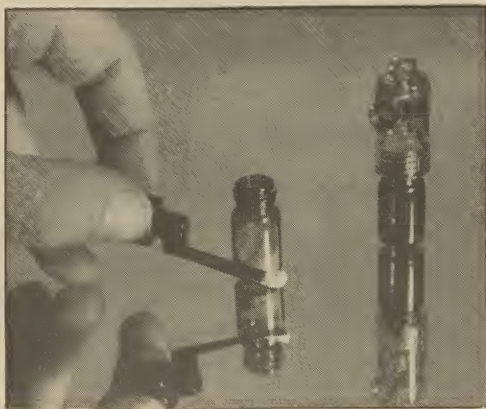
A few months later, all hell broke loose. Eric and his boyfriend, Vance, were arrested when 20 plainclothes officers armed with search warrants burst into Vance's bedroom looking for drugs. Eric and Vance were watching porn movies and having sex at the time. Eric fled to the closet, but he didn't escape. News of his fate hit the front page of the papers the very next day.

To my dismay, Eric was actually pleased; he enjoyed the attention. Furthermore, despite his previous arrest, he was convinced he would emerge from this latest fiasco unscathed. When a friend asked if he had used drugs since his arrest, he replied, "Are you kidding? I'm always on drugs. But I'm happier taking drugs than trying to get off, so it doesn't bother me."

It bothered him, however, when he went to jail pending his court appearance a few months later. He asked me to visit, but after contacting a few people who I thought might be able to help, I wrote instead. "This is something you're going to have to work out for yourself," I advised. "The last time I offered help, it didn't do any good. So can you blame me for feeling somewhat detached from the present situation?"

"For a long time now, I haven't understood the direction your life has taken, and I don't think you have either. If this sounds harsh, sorry. For what it's worth, I do care. And naturally, I'm looking forward to all the sordid stories that are going to come out of this. Who knows? You may even provide the subject for a column or two. After all, the daily paper hardly did you justice."

Perhaps I shouldn't have been so flip. Eric didn't return my letter, and I didn't hear any more about him until I ran into a friend in September, 1987, who told me that at his trial Eric pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years at the state prison. Despite all I had witnessed over the previous few years, I was shocked and angry. Sure, Eric was a mess, but did he really deserve jail? I didn't



think so.

"It's all so pathetic," I concluded. "What a good life Eric used to have. How rapidly his life deteriorated! No, it's worse than pathetic. In an era when so many are fighting for their lives, it's disgusting, really, to see Eric throw his away."

I am well aware that by writing about Eric, I may destroy what remains of our friendship (which may not be worth preserving anyway). But it is a risk worth taking. If Eric's decline and fall causes one person to reconsider his or her own involvement with drugs, this story, as sordid as it is, may be worth the telling.

A friend, when referring to Eric, says, "There but for the

grace of God go you or I." I don't believe this, and I don't think it's the lesson I want to teach. We are not all potential addicts. For that matter, Nancy Reagan and her "Just Say No" campaign notwithstanding, drugs aren't necessarily evil. Yet enough of us are prone to destruction, and drugs are sufficiently dangerous, that it is wise to be wary. The time to abandon ship is before it sinks, not after.

So has Eric's ship sunk? I don't know. He may be deluding himself to think that he can change once he gets out of prison. Then again, he may still have a chance. No matter how disillusioned I become, I never give up entirely. Even for Eric, there is always room for hope. ▼

Friday

(Continued from previous page)

"Over the years we have chipped away at discrimination—age, sex, marital status, handicapped—and now there's very few groups left that people can legally batter. Sadly, it's still fair game to beat up on gays and lesbians both literally and figuratively," said Anderson.

Among other provisions, the bill sought to add the phrase "sexual orientation" to existing state law prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and commercial transactions.

Former 49er football star **Bill Ring**, who lives in San Carlos, is interested in politics and might seek the GOP nomination against 20th Assembly District incumbent **Ted Lempert** next year.

Speaking of sports figures, before the paternity scandal that baseball's **Steve Garvey** admitted to recently, he was considered a "star" in the Republican future. But you can forget about "Senator Garvey" now. I mean, the guy can't keep his pants on and this is not the image California Republicans like in their candidates.

Castro Street rumors have it that the site of the Elephant Walk, once a hangout for gay politicians and the site of the infamous "White Night" riots, is slated to become a McDonalds.

In New York, four former officials of the AIDS Outreach Program in NYC were indicted last week on charges of stealing \$350,000 from the state-financed program. Manhattan District

Attorney **Robert Morgenthau**, saying that "I can't think of a more heinous crime—the primary goal of this program is to provide education, counseling and information about AIDS to intravenous drug users and their sexual partners. But they diverted these funds to their own personal use."

The four are charged with grand larceny and forgery and face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Want to know one of the finest public servants in the city? Judge **Lillian Sing**, presiding judge of the San Francisco Municipal Court, is one of the best anywhere.

The Community Health Coalition fundraiser March 23 features **Dr. Mervyn Silverman**, the former city health director, and now the director of American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR), speaking on "The AIDS Epidemic and the Movement for Access to Health Care." The fundraiser is being held at 3220 Sacramento, for information call 621-2193. ▼

Alternative Project Needs Fundraisers

Fundraising volunteers are needed for the exciting and unique San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project. The project sponsors a phone resource service as well as highly successful holistic treatment programs for people with all stages of HIV infection. There is also occasional need for phone and office support. Please call 558-9292 for further information. ▼

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AIDS Emergency Fund Launches 1989 Fundraising With Class



AEF President Darrell Yee (r.) with honorary co-chair Gail Wilson and her escort Brad Connland.

(Photo: Pruzan)

The AIDS Emergency Fund kicked off its 1989 fundraising campaign with a gala dinner and awards presentation in the elegant Peacock Court of the Mark Hopkins Hotel last Sunday, March 12. Honorary 1988 co-chairs Louise Molinari, Bob Ross and Danny Williams were honored. Each received an inscribed Daum crystal heart donated by Neiman-Marcus.

Incoming President Darrell Yee spoke of the challenges ahead as the fund strives to raise over \$800,000 this year.

Honorary co-chairs for 1989 are singer Gail Wilson and Sup. Richard Hongisto.

Recognized for their contributions to the fund were Grubb and Ellis, Citicorp Savings, Castro Station, The Galleon Bar and Restaurant, Beautyrama, AIDS Bike-A-Thon, Imperial Council of Emperors and Empresses, and the Christmas Eve Dinner for People with AIDS.

Daniel Barreto and Zach

Long were honored as volunteers for the fund. Outgoing President Hank Cook was recognized for his years of service. And Rick Booth received the Founder's Award.

Yee announced at the dinner that due to the success of fundraising efforts, the maximum

grant level will be restored to \$1,000 per person.

The AIDS Emergency Fund provides emergency cash grants to people with AIDS and disabling ARC to help pay rent, medical bills and meet other needs not covered by standard assistance programs.



Christian Haren (c.) and Dr. David Werdegard (r.) speak with AEF Vice President Glenn Terrio (l.) at the kick-off dinner.

(Photo: Pruzan)

Bush to Appoint Gay To Natl. AIDS Panel

by Allen White

Pres. George Bush has announced his intended appointments to the National AIDS Commission, successor to the Walker Commission. Larry Kessler, executive director of the Boston AIDS Action Committee, is the one gay man reportedly under consideration for the commission which is to advise President Bush and Congress on AIDS policy. But the recent wrangling over the appointment of John Tower as Defense Secretary has stalled action on the AIDS Commission.

In Boston, Kessler noted, "They are all engrossed in the business of the Tower nomination and they have put this on the back burner."

The problems of John Tower could also have an indirect effect on AIDS funding. Said Jean McGuire, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, "It is so hard and the Tower nomination doesn't make it any easier either. What it does is frame for Bush the fact that even the things he has the most confidence in he can be vulnerable in."

The commission was created by Congress last year to counsel Congress and the President on AIDS issues. Those already named to the commission include Rep. J. Roy Rowland, Donald Goldman, Dr. Norman Zinberg, Diane Ahrens and Rev. Scott Allen.

Rowland has been successful in Congress in opposing many Dannemeyer AIDS measures. Goldman is in support of anti-discrimination legislation for people with AIDS. Zinberg is a Harvard professor and a researcher on drug abuse issues. Ahrens headed the AIDS Task Force for the National Association of Counties and Rev. Scott Allen served on the Texas state AIDS task force.

McGuire said that, "some of them were surprises, from the point of view that they were not necessarily individuals who were visible in AIDS policy development nationally."

She said, "Rowland was a critical component" and "Ahrens will bring very valuable resources to the commission."

She also said, "Our expectation is that this commission will be working out of the history that has already been set and that was not set by Reagan but by certain people who were involved. One of those people expected to continue that is June Osborne. She is a recommended panel member from the Senate that hasn't been approved yet. In that context, I think we can count on some level of continuity."

There is still uncertainty about who the president will name or when they will be named.

Those under consideration from the Senate include Larry Kessler, singer Dionne Warwick, Dr. June Osborne who is the dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan, and Peter Carpenter who is a pharmaceutical manufacturer and has served as board chair of the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

As the only openly gay person to be on the commission, Kessler said, "One of the things I would see myself doing is educating the commission about what the community based groups are and who the AIDS service groups are and how they came to be."

McGuire added, "They came out of the lack of the Reagan Administration. We knew then in 1981 through 1983 there was not going to be a national response and we created many systems to serve people with AIDS. Many of the reports have yet to realize the value of these groups. There are now over 600 of them with over 100,000 volunteers. That would be a key thing. We have done it without much help from the feds. They need the money because the cities are not going to keep pace."

The task of the commission is not going to be easy. "Some of the fights that we have ahead of us in the context of AIDS are harder than we had in the past because these are truly fights about money for care and money for the treatment support that people are going to be needing. They are more challenging than the discussion about research and prevention," said McGuire.

Kessler said, "What I am really afraid of is that people will say, yes there is that need, but there is this other need. There are about five epidemics going at the same time including AIDS, homelessness, addictions, the aging epidemics. So now these are all going to compete for the dollar. Before it was hard to get them to admit there was a problem. I would hope that victims of disease would not have to fight one another for a piece of a shrinking pie."

As Congress and the President will be looking to the commission, the country will be looking to George Bush. The first signals have been mixed.

Jeff Levi, executive director of the National Lesbian/Gay Task Force said, "I think there is potential but I think everyone has been a little disappointed. My hopes are not as high as they were in January."

He added, "I also really think this administration has not decided what it will make real priorities politically."

Levi said of Bush, "There is a difference between acknowledging a problem and going after it. This is a President who seems to be willing to acknowledge problems but not necessarily go after them."

But McGuire was still somewhat optimistic. "We sense a more positive attitude with George Bush. It will be a major credit to the administration and a credit to the nation as a whole to have a different attitude and we expect that is something that Bush is bringing in," she said.

Like Levi, McGuire said, "The one thing we are still waiting for is for the leadership to emerge and it obviously hasn't been in his first 60 days agenda but we would hope it would be shortly thereafter."

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Demo. Chief Welcomes Gays

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Newly installed chair for the National Democratic Party Ron Brown has openly welcomed gays and lesbians into the party's fold. At a speech before the National Press Club on Feb. 15, Brown said he saw "no negative" in gays playing a visible role in the party.

"I don't think it hurts any party that is open and wants to reach out to all people in our American community. I find no negative in that whatever," said Brown. He was responding to a question put to him by the Washington Blade, a gay newspaper.

Brown said he would not exclude anyone from the Democratic National Council because of their sexual preference. But he hedged on whether or not he would appoint an openly gay person to the DNC, the ruling committee of the party.

"Well, first of all, I don't know if I'd be asking people those kinds of questions before I made appointments," said Brown. But, he added, "I certainly would not exclude someone because of their sexual preference."

There are presently four openly gay members of the DNC. Christine Riddiough, director of the Gay and Lesbian Democrats of America, a coalition of gay Democratic clubs, said she planned to meet with Brown to discuss points of concern to the gay community.

Brown was elected to the party chair Feb. 10. He is the first black to hold such an office. With his prior experience in Jesse Jackson's campaign, he is expected to be sympathetic to gay rights and gay participation in the party.

—Washington Blade

Violence Soars For Brazil Gays

RIO DE JANEIRO—Gay activists in Brazil are sending out an urgent appeal for help in confronting an alarming increase in murders nationwide.

"Every day we have a new case of a gay murdered in the most inhumane way," said Hedimo Santana, secretary general of the Grupo Gay Da Bahia (GGB) in the city of Salvador.

"Strangled with cords or sheets, stabbed with knives, shootings. Homophobia is the main cause of these crimes, supported by our bad governmental situation. Our institutions are discredited and corruption and subordination take place all over the country," he said.

Santana and GGB relations commissioner Genildo Souza said the murderers usually go unpunished—a situation that is fueled by "the indifference of most homosexuals, by homophobia, and by the AIDS crisis."

The most recent issue of the GGB bulletin listed murder victims 279 through 306—by name, age, occupation, city, date, and method of killing. Newsletter editors acknowledged that the roster represents only the tip of the iceberg and begged readers to help document the killings.

—Rex Wockner

Homicide Probe Moves Too Slowly

WASHINGTON—The friends of a slain Washington Post editor have complained that police have moved too slowly to investigate the Jan. 9 homicide.

Paul Berg was stabbed 15 times and found in the bedroom of his apartment where there were no signs of forced entry, police said.

Neighbors said that they, rather than police detectives, informed the department of at least four key witnesses who saw a man with blood on his hands in or around the victim's apartment shortly before the body was discovered.

Berg's friends were most upset that the police had still not produced a composite drawing of the suspect two weeks after the murder.

A homicide squad spokesman said investigators have yet to identify the suspect and they have not uncovered any new information since the day Berg's body was found.

The Washington Blade

Cops Bash Gays At Holocaust Memorial

VIENNA—Gay men and lesbians in Austria have turned to civil disobedience in the battle against four anti-gay laws that they have unsuccessfully sought to overturn 10 years.

The laws ban information on homosexuality, ban gay/lesbian organizations, prohibit male prostitution, and place the age of consent for gay men four years higher than for heterosexuals and lesbians.

At the same time, gay anger in Vienna has continued to escalate since a late November attack by police on a gay group attending the unveiling of the city's new Monument Against War and Fascism.

According to spokespersons for Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Vienna, 20 gay men and lesbians stood silently during the ceremony with a banner reading, "Thousands of Homosexual Victims of Concentration Camps Are Still Waiting for Rehabilitation."

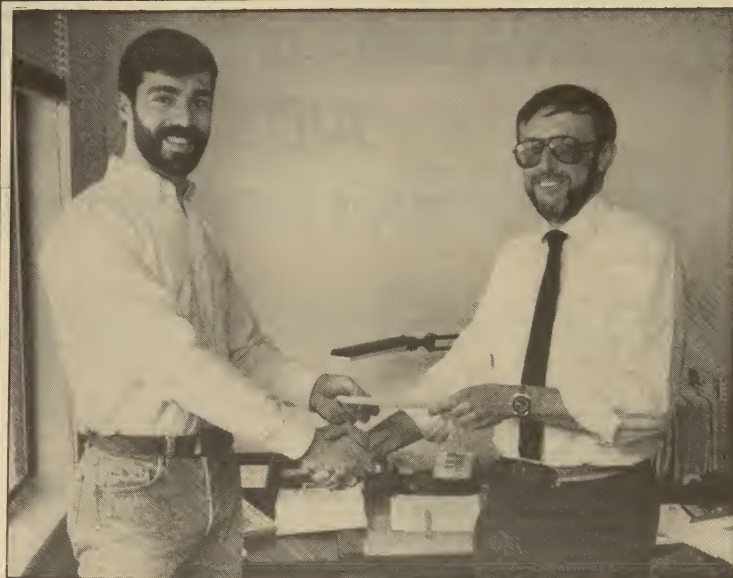
When the group ignored a police demand that their banner be taken down, 30 police charged the group and destroyed the banner, slightly injuring two HOSI members. One lesbian was arrested, but other HOSI members "succeeded in freeing her from the grip of the police," according to a press release.

The media did not report the incident and the Lord Mayor of Vienna later chastised HOSI for carrying out an "unbefitting demonstration."

"In other words," said one HOSI member, "he feels that homosexuals were second-class Nazi victims!"

The police attack and subsequent gay demonstrations follow stepped up direct action in the fight against Austria's anti-gay laws. Last October, two activists unrolled a pro-gay banner over the railing of the visitors' gallery in Parliament while another threw pink handbills down into the assembly. Three men were arrested but two lesbians who staged a simultaneous kiss slipped away.

—Rex Wockner



A Real Winner

Len Broberg of San Francisco, pictured on the left above, is on his way to a glorious, hot week in Palm Springs. Len won the grand prize drawing of a trip for two for having responded to Bay Area Reporter's reader survey. News editor Ray O'Loughlin (r.) hands him his tickets and reservations for a week at the Aruba Hotel. A native of Wisconsin, Len has been a B.A.R. reader for eight years and filled out the extensive questionnaire because he thought "it would be fun." Congratulations, Len, and bon voyage. (Photo: S. Savage)

Guatemalan Bashed Dies In Hospital

BOSTON—A man found beaten to death in a gay cruising area on Jan. 21 died sometime after he was taken to a hospital.

Luis Velasquez was bashed in the Fens and police believe the

theory that the Guatemalan man was killed during or after he was robbed. Investigators would not confirm that the case was being handled as a homicide.

Velasquez died on Jan. 24 at Boston City Hospital and was identified by his roommate.

Police would not also confirm

if Velasquez' death resulted from anti-gay or racist violence. The victim had lived in the U.S. since 1986. His application for political asylum was pending, but he had been granted a work permit and special residency status.

—Gay Community News

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Ma Bell Scrambles To Cool Down AIDS Hotline Furor

Only Hotline Listed Turns Out To Be 976 Tape; Caller's Alert Leads To Remedy

by Allen White

The local San Francisco telephone book lists an AIDS hotline phone number as a 976 number that costs \$2 to call. To explain and try to change this circumstance has caused public-relations types at Pacific Bell and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation a few anxious hours in the last week.

The 976 number was discovered when a local resident, Gerald Stinson, tried to call the AIDS hotline to get some information attempting to help a friend who has AIDS.

When he called 411, he was given the number 976-4700. That number is owned by American International Communications which operates a service under the name "AIDS Hotline, 24-hour information." Each call cost him \$2 and he said he had to make three calls to understand what was said on the tape.

It is run by a for-profit business

and it has no connection with any AIDS organization. And, to the frustration of the AIDS Foundation, it is perfectly legal. As a matter of fact, Paul Keever, owner of the company, says he has the service name filed with the state to use the phrase, "AIDS Hotline, 24-hour information."

When Stinson discovered the phone number, he called the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. He believed, as many do, that there is only one AIDS hotline and he thought it was free.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation does, in fact, operate an 800 number as well as a San Francisco AIDS hotline number. The numbers ring into the San Francisco offices of the foundation where volunteers answer thousands of inquiries.

The AIDS Foundation hotline numbers are free to all callers. The problem that developed last week was the awareness that the number is not listed in the phone

book under AIDS hotline. What is listed is Keever's 976 number.

Though the phone book was printed and distributed last September, Lynn Jimenez, a spokesperson for Pacific Bell, said they only found out about the situation last week. Jimenez said the phone company cannot discriminate and can't give what she called favoritism of one customer over another in listing numbers.

The point was repeatedly made at Pacific Bell that the phone company seemed to have little control over this 976 operator. To the surprise of many, and especially those at the AIDS Foundation, Keever has been operating his for-profit 976 number for almost three years.

He said he receives about 100 calls a day and had only received two complaints in the entire time the number has been in operation. He said he operates the service "to help people."

"This is kind of neat to be in a business to help people," Keever said.

He said he gets his business by advertising in straight publications. "The sleazy ones," he said.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation doesn't share Keever's view that he is helping people. Rene Durazzo, a spokesperson for the foundation, said the AIDS Foundation hotline operated free to everybody from Fresno to the Oregon border. Durazzo noted that the volunteers at the AIDS Foundation provide the latest and most up-to-date information. It is known that these volunteers field an incredible array of calls.

The 976 telephone number, on the other hand, is a brief recording and the information is given at a rapid pace, too fast for some callers, according to Stinson. Defending the recording, Keever said that he thinks many people don't want to talk to a real person and feel more secure with a recording.

At the beginning of the week Pacific Bell was trying to make some changes. When a caller now

dials 411, the information number, the operator will respond to a request for an AIDS hotline by stating they are providing the AIDS Foundation AIDS Hotline telephone number.

Those looking in the telephone book will still only find the 976 number when they check page 22 for the AIDS hotline. Ironically, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is not found on page 22 of the phone book with over a dozen AIDS listings. The reason is the AIDS Foundation is listed under San Francisco, not AIDS.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation tried to make clear that they do have an 800 number and a local telephone number for the AIDS hotline. The local number in San Francisco is 863-2437. The number outside of San Francisco is 1-800-FOR-AIDS. Both numbers are free and there is no charge for the information offered. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation telephone number is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.



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10:00 am Blessing of Palms at Harvey Milk Plaza
10:30 am Community Worship
7:00 pm Evening Worship & Praise
Maundy Thursday, March 23rd
7:30 pm Holy Communion and Tenebrae
Good Friday, March 24th
12:00 noon Passion Story with Hymns
7:30 pm Passion Story with Hymns and Choir
Easter Eve, Saturday, March 25th
10:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter
Easter Sunday, March 26th
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Community Worship
7:00 pm AIDS Healing Service

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Calling All Pacs, Pols New Survey Planned

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) has begun a nationwide survey to compile a directory of state and local lesbian and gay political organizations and political action committees (PACs).

The new directory—called *Power PACS and Pols*—will be a valuable tool for networking and exchanging information between gay and lesbian political groups around the country. For example, an organization planning on lob-

bying for a local civil rights ordinance or considering making effective contributions to politicians could contact groups listed in the directory that already have experience in such activities.

The directory will list the name, phone number and key contact of each organization, a brief description of the group and its projects, and other helpful information.

Political organizations who want to appear in the directory should write to HRCF, 1012 14th St. NW, Suite 607, Washington, D.C. 20005, "Attention: Power PACs and Pols." The directory is scheduled for publication and distribution later this year.

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Two Parade Organizers Die In South of Market Fire

Third Man Survives Smoky Fire; Bolted Door Prevented Escape

by Allen White

Two leaders of San Francisco's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade died Saturday March 11 in a fire which severely damaged the Worn Out West clothing store at 1158 Howard St. Wayne Sherwood, 36, and Joe Pecard, 42, perished in the early-morning one-alarm fire. A third person, Paul Althausen, was hospitalized.

Sunday afternoon, the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee voted to dedicate the 1989 parade and celebration in honor of Wayne Sherwood and Joe Pecard. Sherwood was the 1989 co-chair for safety for the parade. Pecard was, as he has been for several years, the supervisor charged with checking the regulations for the drivers of motorized units in the annual event.

Many were grief stricken upon hearing the news at last Sunday's meeting. The committee's board of directors made the first resolution and it was later passed unanimously by the general committee to honor the two at this year's event.

The actual cause of the fire, according to Fire Department officials, is still under investigation. What is known is that smoke alarms went off in the building



Scene of the fire where two men died from smoke inhalation.
(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

shortly before 5 a.m. The fire most likely started in the kitchen area of a residence in the building.

The three men had gone earlier to the Watering Hole for drinks. When they returned, whoever locked the deadbolt removed the key.

They apparently were awakened by the smoke alarms. But when they attempted to open the front door, the key was missing. They crawled over to the garage door and got one latch open. But they were unable to get to the other side to get the other latch open.

It is believed that Paul Althausen was able to stay alive because he discovered the mail box slot. There, he was able to place his mouth and get outside air which kept him alive.

Reports indicate firefighters discovered Wayne Sherwood at the front door, still with a pulse. He died on the way to the hospital. Joe Pecard died in his bed.

Wayne Sherwood had been a past youth committee co-chair and was the safety co-chair of the

1989 parade. Flo Tumolo, co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Committee, said he had served in a leadership capacity with the parade since 1984. His mother lived in New York and his body will be shipped there for burial.

Joe Pecard has been with the parade for years. Many know him as the person who checked driver-safety regulations. He would be in charge of making sure people had insurance, had monitors, and supervised the breath-o-lizer tests.

"They were wonderful, caring people who would think nothing of dropping things and helping you where they could. The parade will definitely feel a loss," said Tumolo.

Friends of the two men are invited to join together for a memorial service this Saturday, March 18 at 5 p.m. on Mt. Tamalpais. Call 864-3733 for details.

A second memorial service is planned for March 22. For details call 648-6064. ▼

PARTY WITH PAT



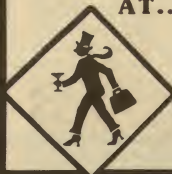
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MCC Wants Ideas For Comm. Center

The Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco is sponsoring a community forum on Saturday, March 18, to discuss the possibility of a lesbian and gay community center for San Francisco. The church's building at 150 Eureka Street currently serves as a center for the gay and lesbian community, with the permanent offices of three lesbian/gay organizations (in addition to the church's own offices) and over 2,100 users each week.

This building was purchased in 1979 and the final mortgage payment will be made this year. MCC has grown so much in the last three years that it is considering purchasing or building a new building in the Castro neighborhood. The church also recognizes that its building is too small to accommodate all the meetings and community events that are held there.

Aware of the need to conserve community resources and wishing to continue its service to the community by providing meeting and office space, MCC/SF is considering the construction of a community center, of which the church facilities

would be a part. There are several options that are being reviewed. The church wishes to involve the community in the process.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 18, 1989, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. to discuss the possibilities and the options available to the community for a community center. An open invitation has been extended to all interested individuals and organizations in the community.

The church will provide refreshments throughout the afternoon for all who participate. The agenda for the day is designed to generate as many ideas as possible in four areas of concern and to establish a steering committee for the project. There will be four sub-workshops, planned so that each participant can attend as many as two during the day.

The church has planned this workshop as an open process, encouraging as much participation as people are willing to give. The workshops will be held at MCC/SF, 150 Eureka Street. For more information please contact the church office at 863-4434. ▼

SF Hate Crimes Go Unreported

CUAV Needs More Information, Also Repeats Long-Time Safety Tips

by Dennis McMillan

Bay Area Reporter has received many recent calls from men reporting anti-gay attacks on themselves or friends. For some reason callers were reluctant to contact Community United Against Violence (CUAV), an agency which needs the hate crime statistics to update its records, and one which can offer helpful counseling to victims of gay-related violence.

Lester Olmstead-Rose, interim director of CUAV, warns that the Church/Market area (also known as the Silver Strip) continues to be a hot spot for gay-directed violence, as does the Duboce Triangle, Castro area and Collingwood Park. There also have been frequent reports of attacks on the Western Addition.

CUAV reports 15-35 gay bashings per month in San Francisco. The group says this figure is conservative, considering the number of attacks which go unreported.

An anonymous man told B.A.R. a rifle was held against his head at a recent street fair. Another spoke of skinhead violence, where a gang assaulted him with a baseball bat in the Duboce Triangle area. There have been several reports of disturbances on the Muni bus lines.

CUAV has been especially alert for new difficulties because of the recent Nazi skinhead uprisings and an alleged neo-Nazi "rock concert" in the Vallejo area. The agency posted flyers all over the Castro warning of possible Aryan Woodstock infiltration.

Fortunately, there were no incidents involving the Vallejo

gathering on Saturday. The concert was not issued a music permit and reportedly drew fewer than 100 "Whitestock" attendees compared to double the number of protestors.

CUAV had monitors lined up and were working closely with the police department in anticipation of trouble with the skinheads in the Castro. Fortunately, there was no need for reinforcements because the white militant group stayed in the Napa area.

"It's dangerous to say that skinheads are our enemy," Olmstead-Rose cautions. Some skinhead gangs are anywhere from neutral to friendly towards gay people, and as a community we have to be careful in stereotyping any group of people."

He spoke of the existence of a gang of gay skinheads as being a group of responsible, good people, an exception to the usual perception of skinheads.

WHISTLES

Olmstead-Rose said the ongoing whistle campaign isn't a "cure-all to violence," but, he added, the concept works because we have a community educated that if they hear a whistle, they respond." He spoke of the downside, saying, "On the other hand, if you're being assaulted from behind, a whistle is not going to do a whole lot of good."

The whistle works best when an observer notices violence and blows the whistle, it alerts bystanders who also blow whistles. This helps gather people who either scare away the offenders or rally the police.

CUAV continues to issue the following warnings to gay people: Do not walk home drunk at night.



Site of a number of recent attacks: Church and Market Streets.

(Photo: S. Savage)

Check out who you are leaving with when going home from the bars. Make sure people know who you are going with and where you are going. If you are alone at night, take a cab.

"Remember, the highest risk areas are our neighborhoods," Olmstead-Rose said. "So you're

not safe just because you're in, let's say, the Castro, where people want to come and do us violence."

CUAV also encourages gay men and lesbians to take self-defense classes.

Concerning the emotional/guilt side, Olmstead-Rose said,

"Nobody is victimized because they're doing something wrong. You're beaten up because someone chose to beat up a gay person. The butchest, toughest person who does all the right things the right times is still likely to be a victim. All we are saying is try your best to minimize the opportunity for violence."



11th Annual Confab Of Gay & Lesbian Jews In Chicago

The 11th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews will be held in Chicago on August 24-27. All conference activities will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Chicago, close to all major cultural and architectural points of interest.

The registration cost for the conference will be approximately \$200 and will include the following: opening cocktail party with cash bar and entertainment by the Windy City Gay Chorus and boat ride on the Chicago River on Thursday night; lunch, dinner and oneg shabbat with entertainment by the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band on Friday night; cocktail party and dinner with dancing and entertainment on Saturday night; buffet brunch on Sunday; plus full days of workshops on relevant social, religious and health issues on Friday and Saturday, open forum with Chicago

area rabbis and plenary session on Sunday morning, and optional tours of Chicago architectural and Jewish sites.

Religious services will be held on Friday night and Saturday morning. Reasonable hotel rates will be available at the Hyatt Regency. A restricted amount of scholarship money is available to defray part of the cost of registration.

Conferees wanting scholarships should write as soon as possible. Home hospitality will be available with preference given to those people coming from the greatest distances (Europe and Israel).

For more information, please write or call: The 11th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, c/o Congregation Or Chadash, 656 W. Barry St., Chicago, IL 60657, (312) 248-9456.

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DEATHS

Douglas E. Hinkston May 21, 1951-March 8, 1989

Doug Hinkston left us on March 8 after a two year battle with AIDS. His courage, personal and professional integrity and zest for the good times enhanced the lives of all with whom he made contact.

A graduate of Cornell University, Doug directed the Microsurgical and Laser Surgery Training Centers for Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center. His contributions and dedication to his field have earned him international recognition.

He will be forever loved and respected by his partner Dave, Mike, the Mertz's, J.R., Dad Jack and Pearl, brothers John and Paul, nieces, relatives and friends from coast to coast, medical associates, Troc people and, of course, Ari and the Delrubio triplets.

Kudos to all of his enlightened and dedicated doctors and the wonderful ICU and same day folks at PPMC.

Contributions may be made to the Douglas E. Hinkston Laser Training Program at Pacific Presbyterian Medical Center in San Francisco or any AIDS organization. For information regarding a gathering on March 24 for Doug, contact Dave Stockman at 863-5254 or 558-8836.

It's not the Troc or the Saint, toots, but do a dance floor runway for us in disco heaven.

Joseph Edward Fraser June 11, 1954-March 6, 1989

Joe Fraser, known and respected in Los Angeles for his numerous stage appearances, died due to complications from AIDS on Monday, March 6. He was 34.

The actor's local stage credits include *Night Sweat*, *Warren*, *AIDS/US*, *I Wish I Had Never Met You And Was Meeting You Now*, and the world premiere of *Jerker*, also starring his lover, David Stebbins.

They met, in fact, during the L.A. run of *Night Sweat* and almost immediately became partners in October 1985, renewing their marriage vows in Washington DC on Oct. 11, 1987. The acting couple also made a cameo appearance together in the film *The Morning After*.

Born in Minneapolis, Fraser grew up in Joliet, Illinois. He received his B.A. from Shimer College in Mount Carroll, Illinois, and studied in England and Germany. He studied acting with Lawrence Parke and Michael Kearns, who directed him in most of his theatrical work.

He returned to graduate school in 1987, after testing positive, to receive his teaching certificate. He traded his acting career for a teaching career, teaching elementary school in the L.A. Unified School District before becoming too ill to work. He and Stebbins spent the last months of his life traveling, shopping, seeing films, and cementing their bond.

Joe also sang, played the flute and guitar and spoke fluent German.

He is survived by Stebbins of Los Angeles; his mother, Betty Fraser of Joliet; his brother, Daniel Fraser of Chicago; his sister, Amanda Stewart of Eugene, Oregon.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 18, noon, at the Church of the Reconciliation at Forest Lawn in Glendale. Stebbins and the family request that donations be made in Fraser's name to the Necessities of Life Program, AIDS Project Los Angeles.

George D. Gannett

George D. Gannett, 35, of Barrington, R.I., a self-employed architect for the past year, died at home Feb. 27.

Born in Boston, a son of William B. and Nancy Y. Gannett of Hopedale, Mass., he lived in California for eight years prior to moving to Rhode Island.

Gannett was an organizer at the San Francisco Arts Council from 1976 to 1985. He was employed in San Francisco by Gensler & Associates Architects and the John Berggruen Gallery. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Occidental College, Los Angeles, in 1975 and a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Rhode Island School of Design last year.

Besides his parents and many loving friends, he leaves two brothers, W. Bristo Gannett Jr. of Houston and Robert F. Gannett of Thornton, N.H.; a sister, Mary Gannett of Denver, and his partner, Ron McClelland of Boston.

George requested donations be made to Rhode Island Project AIDS, Roger Williams Bldg., 22 Hayes St., Rm 124, Providence, R.I. 02908, of which he was director for the last year. A celebration of George's life will be held Sunday, March 19 at 2 p.m. at 224 Guerrero Street.

Monte Cliff Hicham Jan 29, 1948-March 5, 1989

Cliff gave up his one and a half year battle with AIDS on the night of March 3.

Educated at the University of Texas in theater arts, a member of ACT, honored for his innovative set and costume designs in the early days of *Beach Blanket Babylon*, Cliff was also well respected in the Oriental antique community. His "objects" and sharp discernment were much sought after. His exquisite taste and eye for detail will be missed by his friends, colleagues and loved ones.

Cliff is survived by his mother Frances, a brother and two sisters. A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 11. In lieu of flowers, donations to Project Open Hand are requested.

Thomas John Edinger June 4, 1951-March 5, 1989

"A little song, a little dance, a little seltzer down the pants"—life's been like that.

This quote from Chuckles the Clown was Tom Edinger's final wry pronouncement on life's adventures and misfortunes. AIDS proved to be the final seltzer down his pants Sunday morning, March 5, at the age of 37.

An accomplished painter and illustrator, Tom graduated with a masters degree in painting from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1975. He moved to New York City, where he worked as a flight attendant and purser for Trans World Airlines for 11 years, flying extensively throughout Europe. Through his work, he became fluent in the French language and was deeply influenced by French art, music and design.

In 1976, Edinger was awarded a painting scholarship from the New York State Endowment of the Arts, followed in 1977 by a scholarship from the National Endowment of the Arts. His finely crafted oil paintings and pencil drawings reside in collections in New York and San Francisco. He also produced a series of album covers for well-known jazz musicians with Capitol Records.

Tom returned to San Francisco in 1988 to be with friends and family during his illness. He is survived by his mother, Ruth Taylor; sister, Jill Schnugg; his loving partner Nicolas Fleites and his loving friend, Leslie Wozniak.

Darren MacGavin 1948-1989

Darren died in San Francisco, the city that he loved, on Feb. 28. His lover, Don, his sisters Edith and Maria, and his dear friend Nancy were at his side.

Darren fought a long, three-year battle with AIDS but, in the end, his spirit proved to be stronger than his body.

Darren will be greatly missed by his friends and loved ones in San Francisco, Toronto, and Miami. However, we can all find comfort in knowing that he is resting in a much better place.

Earle Koser

Who was Earle M. Koser, Jr.? He was a very special friend of mine and many others.

And on Feb. 22, God came to take him home. You're a free spirit now, Rocky.

Hugs and kisses from your friends and family.

Vincent Sofia, Ph.D. Nov. 4, 1948-March 9, 1989

Dr. Vincent Sofia Jr. died on March 9, from complications related to AIDS. Vince and his life-partner Dick Magnani celebrated their eighth anniversary on Feb. 19.

Vince was the son of Vincent and Martha Rose Sofia, the brother of Tony and Gigi, and an uncle, cousin, and nephew to a large, loving family. To the rest of us, he was an excellent friend.

He was also the tolerant and loving companion of a wicked feline named Arabella.

Vince held a Ph.D. in psychology, and was employed at Pacific Medical Center. In his private practice, he used his doctoral training in combination with his experience as a gay man living with AIDS to counsel others who had AIDS and ARC.

Vince loved to bowl, and had an unflagging interest in games of chance. He spent many evenings dealing blackjack at charitable events for members of the

San Francisco community. As a friend and companion he was compassionate, amusing, and complex. He was able to maintain his wit, his concern for others, his intellectual clarity and a wonderful sense of grace throughout his illness.

We miss him terribly now, and will for all of our lives.

Gregory Gene Noecker

Gregory Gene Noecker celebrated his 39th birthday on March 2. In the early morning hours of March 8, peacefully in his sleep, he transcended this world. He was surrounded by love, and on his way he woke some sleeping friends to say goodbye.

Greg's personal and professional triumphs made him shine in the crowd. Those who knew him, know best. His work with social services and foster child placement gave many people hope and a chance for a new life.

Greg leaves behind a world of loving friends and intrigued onlookers. His birth family, gay family and many friends, thank with their hearts, all those who made Greg's life easier the past two years. Anyone who wishes to do something in Greg's honor or memory should make a donation, in his name, to either the Shanti Project or Coming Home Hospice.

Because Greg would love it, his friends plan to celebrate his life on Easter Sunday at his house at 2 p.m. The first Annual Greg (PHYRNE) Noecker Easter Bonnet Expose will celebrate the life of a man whose absence will change many lives.

Samuel Joseph Sharp April 29, 1934-Feb. 27, 1989

Born in Salinas, Kansas, he died on Feb. 27, at noon, surrounded by his lover and longtime friend Charles Crookston, and friends Dominic, Celso, and Rick from Most Holy Redeemer Parish.

He is survived by his parents Helen and Wayne who reside in Wichita, Kansas.

Samuel had lived in San Francisco since 1964 and was employed for most of his life as a printing pressman. His favorite hobby was computing and he also devoted time to assisting young men in need of shelter and companionship.

He converted to the Catholic faith on Christmas day, 1954 and received confirmation Easter Sunday, 1986 at Most Holy Redeemer Parish in the Castro. He stated at the time that he was "anxious and determined to practice [his] faith as a gay man" and did so with a mild-mannered compassion that endeared all who knew him.

There will be a memorial mass with the prayer group he attended Monday of Holy Week, march 20, at 8 p.m. at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church on Diamond and 18th Street.

We will miss you, Samuel. Pray for us.

Samuel H. "Skip" Daniel, Jr.

March 11, 1961-Feb. 6, 1989

Skip lived and died with a commitment to us all. He learned and wished for all persons to "get together" and "make it work."

His love for Michael, Joannie, Ron, Michael, Boyd, Larry, Bill, Gene, David, John, Claudia, Mary Ann, Coleen, and hosts of care providers attests to Skip's commitment. Always in his thoughts and heart were remembrances to his family in Mississippi, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

His legacy was to young people: Be safe, love each other, reject anything unhealthy and unsafe.

Goodbye, Skip: So well that I can live without—I love thee. Then how little was that? As well as Jesus? Prove it me that he loved men as we love thee.

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DEATHS

Raymond "Buz" Daigle 1943-1989

On Feb. 12, Buz made the transition from this world to the next after a short battle with AIDS. At his passing were his friends Steve, Al, Tom, Elliot, Hawk, Jim, Stanley, Peggy, Clark and Raven.



A person filled with enthusiasm, humor and a zest for living, Buz was known and loved by many in the gay community for over 20 years. He left behind many relatives including his brother and sister-in-law, Ron and Jean, and his mother Lillian. A special thanks to the staff of Ward 5-A.

A private celebration of his life will be held at Mount Tamalpais on March 19. For information please call Tom at 441-5209.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the AIDS Food Bank or Open Hand.

"To live in the hearts of those we love is not to die."

Terry Mulrooney

Terry Mulrooney passed away on Feb.

22 from complications of AIDS. Terry is survived by his brother, and the many friends who will remember him for his humor, loyalty, volunteer service, and his favorite expression, "Oh, well!" ▼

C. Russell Roth

April 28, 1954-March 3, 1989

Living with AIDS for two-and-a-half



years claimed Russell's spirit, and then his body. May he rest in peace in a place where there are many, many bears. ▼

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, Bay Area Reporter has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m. ▼

Robert Mapplethorpe



Photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, once notorious for his sexually explicit images which shocked the art world, died of AIDS in Boston on Thursday, March 9. According to his New York City art dealer, Howard Read, Mapplethorpe had been diagnosed with the disease three years ago, but continued his work until one month ago. He was 42. Mapplethorpe was born in Queens, N.Y. and studied art at Brooklyn's Pratt Institute. He got

into photography quite by accident because an art director suggested he take his own photos for a mixed media collage he was working on. Years later, Mapplethorpe's work appeared in the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the National Portrait Gallery in London and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. A memorial service is being planned for the spring. ▼

Health Guide Now Available

The National Lesbian/Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF)—the oldest national lesbian and gay health organization—has published the second edition of The Sourcebook on Lesbian/Gay Health Care. The Sourcebook is the only comprehensive directory and resource book for lesbians and gay men.

It contains more than 2,000 listings of doctors, clinics, counseling services and research centers that specialize in lesbian and gay health care, as well as 42 articles by leading experts on lesbian and gay health issues.

The Sourcebook directory covers every state in the U.S. as well as Canada, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The articles contained in The Sourcebook are written by world renowned health care experts on major health and social issues facing the lesbian and gay community, which makes it one of the richest academic resources on lesbian and gay health issues ever published. Previously unavailable surveys and analyses are presented for the first time on issues such as substance abuse, mental health, AIDS, sexuality and gay and lesbian families.

The Sourcebook is sold for \$14 and was edited by Michael Shernoff, ACSW, and William A. Scott, CSW, ACP. It is available in bookstores across the country or by contacting the NLGHF, PO Box 65472, Washington, D.C., 20035, (202/797-3708).

AIDS Takes Founder of Hartford Zen Center

by David Lamble

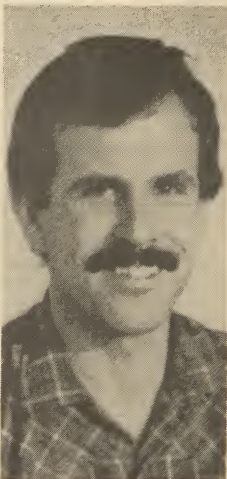
Michael Merrill, who in 1983 co-founded The Hartford Street Zen Center as an alternative spiritual retreat for gay men, died last Thursday at 4 a.m. at Garden Sullivan Hospital in San Francisco. His death came as the result of complications from AIDS related lymphoma. Merrill, three months shy of his 39th birthday, had been ill off and on for the past three years.

Michael Merrill belonged to a small group of gay men who, in 1983, recognized the need for a place in the Castro where gay men could pursue meditation and other spiritual interests. For several years Merrill lived at the Hartford Street building which served hundreds of gays in the Bay Area.

57 Hartford Street has been the site of spiritual retreats and has frequently been the location of AIDS related memorial services. Last year the directors of the Hartford Street facility began plans for hospice care in the building next door.

Merrill was part of the wave of gays who came to San Francisco in the mid '70s. A journalist as well as a political activist, Merrill was the San Francisco based correspondent for the Body Politic, then the national gay newspaper of Canada. Merrill was a prominent member of the Bay Area Coalition Against the Briggs Initiative (BACABI) fighting conservative State Sen. John Briggs' attempt to fire all lesbian and gay school teachers in California in 1978. Merrill helped found several early '80s gay liberation groups including the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance and The Body Electric, a gay anti-nuclear affinity group.

Born in Moscow, Idaho, Merrill was raised in Oregon where he attended Reed College. In the late '60s his family moved to



Michael Merrill

Canada to protest the Vietnam War and Richard Nixon's election as president. Having a natural talent for music, Merrill was for a time a Methodist Church organist.

Serving in the kitchen cabinet for Howard Wallace's campaign for supervisor in 1979, Merrill co-wrote the candidate's speech to the historic 1979 March On Washington. That speech was prominently quoted in the New York Times' coverage of the march.

Merrill is survived by his parents William and Jo Merrill of Nanaimo, British Columbia, his brother Timothy, the head of his support group Tony Estevez and a small army of lovers and friends across North America.

A memorial service for Michael Merrill will be held Sunday, March 19, at 3 p.m. at the Hartford Street Zen Center. ▼

MORE GAY MEN AND LESBIANS HAVE DIED FROM CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY THAN FROM AIDS.

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Real Story of Stonewall To Be Told In New Book

Author Seeking Participants for Interviews; NY Police Rebase Files on Surveillance, Riot

by Dennis McMillan

A gay activist from Brooklyn has been researching in San Francisco for interviews of people involved in the 1969 Stonewall riots. The book in progress will not be ready in time for the 20th anniversary of the rebellion, because of the wealth of information the author is acquiring and the long court battle he has waged—and won—against the New York City police department to obtain access to their records of the riots.

Michael Scherker, historian, has been travelling around the country interviewing people in the gay and lesbian communities who either have first-hand information on the riots or who have a story to tell about the three-day milestone rebellion. He had been hoping for a June 1989 publication date with St. Martin's Press, to commemorate the Stonewall riots 20th anniversary. But has had to push the date up a year or more due to fighting court battles with the New York Police Department who had been reticent to release copies of their documents of the riots. He also found so many witnesses willing to tell their perspective of the event that he needed more time for interviews.

Scherker calls himself an oral historian, one who records the stories of those who were not included in the history books. His work is along the lines of those who recorded the black slave narratives, people who have lived their history or heard from relatives and loved ones who had experienced the events and passed the history along orally. The accounts, naturally, do not necessarily align with the portrayals in history classes.

"Oral history is important to those people left out of standard historical accounts, where there isn't a wealth of information or written documentation, by virtue of the fact that the people in

power at the time chose to exclude the minorities," said Scherker.

"It is important to realize that only YOU can put yourself back in history books if your group has been left out," he added.

Scherker said that the money he makes from this book will cover his expenses. Any left over will be donated towards a foundation to preserve gay archives.

Although he has spoken with Alan Berube and the Lesbian/Gay Historical Society, the work will not be in collaboration with that group.

Another reason for the postponed publication of the book is his difficult time obtaining official police records of the surveillance of the Stonewall bar and its gay clientele, among the more notable, the Mattachine Society.

He has had an arduous court battle, despite the New York Freedom of Information Act, trying to wrench the records from New York police commissioner Benjamin Ward. Along with the Center for Constitutional Rights, Scherker and his attorney Joan Gibbs have won a precedent-establishing case and the rights to some of the surveillance documents.

The police had been stubbornly attempting to withhold other written information, but recently decided not to contest the

court order and have released the information to Scherker.

Unlike the New York Police, Stonewall participants have been tremendously cooperative with Scherker. In his interviews with those who took part in the riots or knew those who rioted, he has discussed their opinions of the most significant aspects of Stonewall.

"They accomplished a publicizing of what had been hidden from mainstream media," he said. "Suddenly the event had been published by all the press—gay and straight. It was no longer a hidden legal battle but something for all the world to see. It spread quickly throughout the local community and nationwide, galvanizing the people into a personal realization."

He said that the resulting gay liberation movement was similar to the black pride movement. But it was more of a risk-taking step, according to most accounts, since it was a personal choice of no longer hiding one's gayness—whereas people of color could not choose to hide their minority status.

When the Bay Area Reporter asked Scherker about the initial negative reaction to the riots, he responded, "Many people then had a similar attitude to some today, fearing that the demonstrators were too flamboyant and would disgrace their community, thereby hindering their cause."



Site of the Stonewall Inn where the gay lib movement began in 1969. (Photo: Darlene/Photographics)

He was quick to add, "I think they were incredibly courageous and made giant strides for the gay community, then and now."

He compared their actions to those of such contemporary demonstrators as ACT UP. "I have to get on my soapbox when I hear gay people complain about drag queens and the image they project. If it weren't for those courageous Stonewall drags, we would not have made the progress we have today," he said.

Scherker would presently like to see more unplanned, uncontrived demonstrations like the Stonewall riots, but without the violence. He feels that notifying the community and having police escorts ahead of time is not always as advantageous and media-grabbing as sudden, spontaneous outbursts of protest.

He has found in his many interviews that the rioters of 1969 are upset with the relative complacency of demonstrators in 1989. "Why was there no public outrage over that judge in Texas

and his recent homophobic rulings?" he wondered. "We can't accept the few strides that we make. We have to wake up, shake ourselves, and wake up the people around us."

Concerning the upcoming June commemoration of the riots, Scherker says, "Celebration is wonderful, but this is also a time to ask some questions about that gay landmark, questions like 'what has happened since then and what new strategies are needed?'"

Scherker requests anyone who has personal information on the riots to contact him in Brooklyn at (718) 434-6814. "We want to assemble as many stories and viewpoints as possible," he said.

Clinical Trials Set For Herbal Immune Enhancer

For thousands of years, the Chinese have been using herbal remedies to treat various ailments. Not until recently have they begun to extract the key ingredients of the herbs to produce more effective treatments in mass production. One of these new treatments, anginlyc, was developed to strengthen the immune system and has been tested on elderly patients in China whose immune systems were compromised due to age or chemotherapy. After six months of treatment, the majority of patients showed improvement with no side effects.

To evaluate whether this herbal treatment has any benefit in asymptomatic HIV infection, ARC or AIDS, a clinical trial of 300 patients is underway. Besides taking the herbal treatment every day, participants need to avoid lobster, shrimp, crab, duck, goose, bamboo shoots and alcohol or recreational drugs.

Patients will be followed by an M.D. with clinic visits every two weeks and monthly blood tests for six months.

Selection criteria for participants in this clinical trial are T-helper lymphocyte counts between 100 and 600, no prior HIV-related hospitalizations, and no other ongoing treatments.

Interested volunteers can call the AIDS Prevention Center at 397-3787 Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. for more information.

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Erin Go Feis 89

The Greening of America

On St. Pat's Day, We All Turn Green

by Dennis McMillan

It's St. Patrick's weekend, begorrah! Is everybody ready to celebrate? Have you put up the St. Patrick's tree and trimmed it with plenty of shamrocks? Is the mantle hung with care with lots of green stockings in hopes that Saint Patrick soon will be there? Have you finished all your St. Pat's Day gift shopping, and have you baked a lovely potato to carve and serve with all the trimmings for your loved ones?

Now perhaps and you'll be a'thinkin' me a mite strange and a wee bit on the eccentric side. But I've every right, I have. Now don't ye know that me first name is "Dennis" and me last is "Mc," and I've got the Irish in me, I have. I do, indeed.

Good God, Mary, that's enough brogue already!!!

I'm tired of every year seeing the whole world go crazy celebrating Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, with very little attention paid to March 17. It's a matter of Irish discrimination, I feel. Or maybe it's just ignorance. So I'm here to educate you and help you make your plans for Erin Go Bragh and the good Saint Paddy.

Of course there are times when my gay self takes over my Irish self and says, "What the hell are you in such a green fervor over this Pat character for, anyway? Wasn't he the meddler who brought Christianity to Ireland and drove the snakes to the sea? And any good homosexual worth his salt knows that the snake is a traditional phallic symbol. So who wants to drive phalluses to the sea, anyway?"

But speaking of Christianity, a person doesn't have to be Christian to celebrate Christmas, so why should a person have to be Irish to celebrate St. Patrick's Day?

Now that I've convinced you of the necessity to party in the name of Paddy, you'll no doubt be in need of ideas toward such carryings-on. Read on, oh intrepid, new Irish convert.

For starters, no doubt you'll want to immerse yourself in a sappy, classic Irish movie such as Bing Crosby was wont to perform in. In other words, go to the video store and rent *The Bells of St. Mary's*, Mary.

If the music is too saccharine to stomach, turn the TV sound off and put a Sharon McNight album on the turntable (you may substitute any properly Irish-named performer, although the "Mc's" are your best bet, in my humble and biased opinion).

Once you get your basic Father O'Malley down pat (excuse the pun), you'll be ready for a drink. I would suggest such Irish favorites as the Castr O'Station, Twin McPeaks, Fitzbadlands, or Moby O'Dicks. Hopefully they have wised up from their grand faux pas (which is French-Irish for "ye screwed up ye did now") of past years and they'll be serving green beer this St. Pat's.

After several rounds of green beer, order double shots of Irish whiskey, and eventually top it all off with Irish coffee. Follow this with an Irish feast or corned beef and cabbage. Any Jewish deli can provide this Irish fare.

Now you're ready for the Irish fashion show. Go home and drag (I use the term literally and figuratively) out every single green piece of clothing you own. Farsighted Irish celebrants will have already purchased green-dyed 50ls. Green jockstraps may be a bit difficult to locate, and green chaps will be a real challenge. But you don't want to go South of Market on St. Pat's Day in ordinary black leather, now do you?

If an Irish leatherman you are not, put on your greenest gown and those emerald-sequined heels you picked up at St. Vincent de McPaul's thrift shop. Erin Go Bra-less! Quicker than you can say "Miss Leprechaun" you will be the darling Colleen of everybody in the neighborhood. (Remember, by this time everybody in the neighborhood is so full of green beer and whiskey, they probably won't notice. True, St. Paddy's patsies will be sure to douse their facial hair with green glitter, for that added touch of glamour.)

Warning: get yourself immediately to O'Walgreen's before there is a run on green eye shadow! And as far as the lipstick goes, you are on your own, sweet Mary O'Grady!

Now you are properly attired to attend one of the local Irish piano bars, perhaps the Mint is a wise color-coordinated choice,

where you will be greeted by Stanley O'Boyd. Or the McGalleon, where Empress Pat McMontclair will entertain. And you know both those bars will be

packed with every Irish tenor in town, singing, "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling" while Irish hands are groping.

Those of you who choose to don green cowboy drag will want to check out O'Corral or McRawhide. Just be sure to strap a shamrock to your spurs, or a one-pound potato to your ten-gallon hat.



If you are really brave and/or bombed, go to one of the genuine Irish pubs in town, but be forewarned—they are straight, straight, straight. So be sure to carry a can of green mace in your green rhinestone clutch purse (or green jockstrap depending on your drag).

If all the saints in heaven are smilin' down on ye, if the wind is at your back and the devil doesn't know your name (an old Irish prayer that I've never really understood)—anyway, what I'm trying to say is, if you are a lucky enough leprechaun that you score that night, be sure to wear your green rubbers.

And before you go to sleep, take two green aspirin to ward off a really green-faced hangover the next morning.

So now you're ready to properly celebrate the Emerald Isle's proudest day. But don't forget to pinch anyone who isn't wearing green. And if they try to hand you that old line—"I'm wearing green underwear!"—make them prove it. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER GREATER BAY NEWS

Woo Wins Arbitration Ruling; UC Ordered to Reinstate Her Treatment Called 'Unreasonable', Not Discriminatory

by Dennis McMillan

The controversial and lengthy discrimination case of a UC Berkeley teacher-activist has reached the final stages of arbitration with a ruling in her favor. Under the arbitration agreement, Merle Woo is to be reinstated with full back pay, benefits and seniority. But the arbitrator failed to find the university guilty of any discrimination.

"On one hand the arbitrator gave us everything we asked for in the remedy in terms of the reinstatement and such, but he said basically he found no signs of discrimination," said Nancy Kato, Woo's press secretary.

"And yet that was the whole motive behind Berkeley's unreasonable action towards Merle," she said.

Woo is satisfied that at least the community knows why she was fired "because of discrimination based on race, sex, sexual orientation and political ideology — not to mention retaliation for having won the first case."

The arbitration proceeding took place last November. Both sides then turned in briefs (UCB's 12 pages to Woo's 50, with many case logs and depositions). Kato called Berkeley's accusations "just one big character assassination."

The decision is nonbinding, meaning that the UC chancellor had 10 days from Feb. 28 in which to act. Kato said that Chancellor Ira Heyman was gone last week and did not do anything, which should have meant the arbitrator's decision stood as of March 10.

However, the chancellor's office sent a letter to the office of the university president requesting an extension until March 16.

The case should have taken 90 days for settlement, but has



Merle Woo wins again.

(Photo: Rink)

dragged on for two and a half years.

Woo said, "We want to thank the defense committee, the union, and all the supporters who have put in so much work for all these years."

She continued, "We thought it was all finally over, we were planning a big party, and now the university has again thrown a wrench into the works."

Kato called it another case of clear-cut avoidance and total disregard for any rules that had been set up. "We get a good decision, they get a bad decision, and now they're playing sour grapes," she said.

Kato has initiated a calling

campaign to show public opinion strongly in favor of Woo. She is asking Woo supporters to continue calling the chancellor's office and demand that he uphold the arbitrator's decision "because the arbitrator made a fair and objective ruling and any further deliberation is only a waste of time and taxpayers' money."

When the Bay Area Reporter contacted the chancellor's office they said that they have received a flood of phone calls on Woo's behalf. No other comments were made.

If the university refuses to honor the arbitrator's decision, the defense committee plans to go ahead with its state court suit already filed against UCB charging breach of contract, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and discrimination and retaliation.

"We have a much stronger base now that we have that good decision from the arbitrator," Woo said. "So we would be going into court almost as winners."

The arbitrator, Hastings Law Professor Leo Kanowitz, found that the university had acted "unreasonably" in refusing to consider Woo for continued employment. Woo will also receive back pay and benefits.

An elated Woo said, "The arbitrator's decision to reinstate me means that we have once again won on the basis of the issues: the right to free speech at the workplace, and that UC cannot discriminate against anyone who stands openly against racism, sexism, and heterosexism." ▼



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Man Held Captive, Raped for 3 Days Befriended Assailant in Hayward Bar

by Dennis McMillan

A Hayward man who thought he was going home with another man he'd just met to have a good time found himself the victim of rape instead. Anthony White, a d.j. at the Spoiled Brat bar in Hayward, said that he was drugged, repeatedly raped by three men, and forcibly kept in a Livermore house for three days. By sheer luck, he escaped when his captors were distracted.

According to White, Sunday night, March 5, he talked with a man who went by the name of Bill. He offered White a ride home in his white 1984 Honda. Enroute, White decided to go to the man's home instead of his own. White described the residence as a two-story brown house near the Livermore exit off the I580 highway.

Once inside the stranger's home, he said he was given a soft drink which had a strange taste. Soon after that he apparently passed out and later awoke in a complete stupor, handcuffed to a four-poster bed.

White said that three men raped him repeatedly from Sunday night through Wednesday morning. One man calling himself "Daniel" commented, "Hey, this is more fun than a woman."

White was taken upstairs to a black room where he passed out and awoke handcuffed and drugged. He said that on Tuesday of his ordeal he was completely unaware of where he was or what was happening to him in the

strange house. The captors allegedly forced him to drink more of the drugged cola but gave him nothing else to eat or drink.

On Wednesday, White took advantage of an opportunity to escape when a meter reader came to the front door to check the PG&E readings in the backyard and his captors left him unattended. White was able to get away, although in a weakened condition and still in a fog because of the drugs.

He said he found a bus and took it to the BART station in Concord where he attempted to make a report at a nearby police station. According to White, the police refused to take his report—other than jot down a few notes without signing anything. They said they could do nothing since he had gone to the house voluntarily.

They told him they were aware of this happening on several occasions in the past to different women, but he was the first male victim they knew of.

Bar owner Lou Francisco told

the Bay Area Reporter that on the Wednesday morning that White returned to work he was emotionally distraught and crying. Francisco commented, "Perhaps since this happened in straight suburbia to a black gay man, police did not want to bother with making the report."

Concord police said they had no record of the incident.

"All I wanted to do was find a familiar face, so I went from attempting to report the crime straight back to the bar," he said. "I was nauseated all day long, probably as a result of the drugs."

White was able to recollect a description of "Bill" as a male Caucasian in his early 30s, with a medium build, about 5'9", brown hair and dark eyes, no facial hair and no unusual markings on his body. He was dressed in a muscle t-shirt and jeans.

"I don't know whether they will come back and try it again with a man, but I want to put out a warning to the community," said White. "My advice is don't go home with someone you don't know." ▼

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Hot And Heavy And Quite Eclectic

STENO-GENETRIX'S NEO-ROUP

(An "If You Insist, I Guess I Have To Help" Nose)

Two Sundays ago, Little Mother had the latest in her "out of retirement" auctions at the Town & Country. The merchandise, this time around, was really quite eclectic. Included were exercise machines, bicycles, sewing machines, vacuums, small appliances, kitchen equipment, crystal pieces, silver, jewelry, and various objet d'art.

For sundry reasons, the auction was late starting, but once it began, the bidding became hot and heavy at times. Lady Lennie and Ben were involved in several proffering melees. Towards the end of this go-round, as is the wont of auctions like this, "treasure boxes" were created, with the addition of selected merchandise added with every bid.

It suddenly occurred to me that "Little Mother's Auction" just might be a misnomer. She was on the microphone for an approximate total of 43 minutes, 28 seconds. LM does, however, have the knack of "recruiting" volunteer auctioneers out of the audience, Emperor X Tim, helper Judy, Toots!, and a round-robin of other notables filled in while LM socialized and "worked" the crowd!

The "action" was scheduled from 4 to 8 p.m., and by the time the last "going, going, gone" was sounded, all merchandise was either in the hands of happy shoppers or taken to storage for the next auction. This time, with the final sale, \$1412 was raised for East Bay Assistance Fund. Plaudits and kudos to all who were responsible for this tremendous amount.

HARLOTS MELANO TETRA

(An "Improve the Sonance" Nose)

It's just too bad that a show like that, presented for folks like us, by a group like them, at a time like this, for charities like these, for recipients like those, could be marred by a combination of poor recording, insufficient audio output, and unrehearsed control operator. But, *Bitches in Black* hit the boards on Friday, March 10.

Lady Cathy agreed with me that the attendance was extremely poor, and that this grouping of entertainers should draw standing room only. (I won't mention what she said that I could quote, because I doubt whether my editor would allow "fucked up" in print!)

The opening number was unique and enjoyable, but suffered from the impact of lighting and sound that last year's *A Chorus Line* opener had. The "studs," Emperor X Tim, John, Debbie, Greg, and Toots!, with their ladies, Empress X Fina, Cha Cha, Honey Hush, Timmi, and Trampolina, toasted themselves as well as the audience at the close of their commencement presentation.

All the performances were notable, but some stood out head and shoulders above the rest for various reasons. Considering that the entire show was pantomime, it was refreshing to have Jimi D singing live—his voice is as good as ever! Professionalism does

show, no matter how thick the make-up or how fancy the gown. Without a doubt, Manuel has that certain *je ne sais quoi* of stage presence possessed by only a few of the current crop of performers.

Rehearsal and memorization, indeed, pays off, as portrayed by the likes of Honey Hush, solo, and the group from Sienna Productions. In some sense, they "become" the person they were pantomiming; so much so, that looking into their eyes shows a metamorphosis that borders on the occult.

Trampolina and Greg's mini operetta, Timmi's "Masquerade" ensemble, Trish's "Chicharoni" troupe, and "The Bed She Made For Me" were all memorable performances. Of course, the number that proved that a man and his horse can't be separated had its moments, too!

David and Honey Hush's candle-lit finale, filling the stage (and emptying the audience) was quite touching.

It's a shame that at these kinds of functions, those who truly deserve and earn the "orchids," are also those who turn right around and compete for the "onions." I guess it boils down to courtesy and respect, and the old show business tradition of "each is deserving of being on stage, not upstaged!"

It never ceases to amaze me that "seasoned" performers could be so rude and uncaring to their "fellow" stage mates. More talking and "dishing" by performers goes on during performances of others. The din of those not on stage, who were in the back of the hall, almost drowned out the activity from the front of the hall.

It's not only disturbing, it's disappointing. I suspect that those who are most guilty are the same ones who expect total attention when they are on stage. It should be mentioned that the "stage" is not any place under their collective feet!

All in all, although the length did take its toll on the audience, it was enjoyable, and should make proud all who were responsible.

The event raised a grand total of \$2490 for ISE's charity fund. The 50/50 raffle (\$528.50) was won by Mama Chuckles; the trip to Reno was won by Emperor VII, Paul.

Extra applause to Sam and Town & Country for furnishing the "repat" at the intermission.

POTPOURRI

(A Pasticcio Nose)

Mama Chuckles and the Oakland Parade Contingent have combined to bring you two specials this month. The first one was a spaghetti feed on Monday, March 13. The second was a Mexican feed on Monday, March 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. It's an all you can eat affair for only \$4.50 per person.

St. Patrick's Day brings out the "Irish" in everyone, and Mama Chuckles is offering two C/Ba/C dinners for the price of one, and Turf Club is offering the musical talents of Thorn & Roses band. Check other pubs for their offerings for Erin Go Bragh.

Don't forget the logo contest

for something new for the Turf Club. The deadline is Saturday, April 15, and the prize is \$150 cash.

This year it's Val and Paul presenting, proudly that is, the 5th Annual Girls Against Boys Softball Game. It will be on Sunday, May 21, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Burkhalter Field in Oakland. A barbecue will follow the game (not at the ball park, however) with a requested \$5 donation. All proceeds go to The In-Memory Foundation.

The Bartender's Bash continues next week at Bench & Bar (Wednesday, March 22), and at Turf Club (Wednesday, April 5).

Sunday, March 19, ISE sponsors its annual Easter Basket/Bonnet Contest at Big Mama's from 3 to 7 p.m. Remember, all baskets—as in Easter—will be distributed to people with AIDS in East Bay hospitals.

I'm not upset that I will never be in *Who's Who*. What really chafes my hide is that I can't even get into *What's That?* I'll try to smile at that. Love, Nez.

Let Down Your 'Hair' In Hayward

HAYWARD—Cal State Hayward Theatre Department will hold auditions for the musical, *Hair*, on Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, April 5, 6 and 9 from 7-10 p.m. Multi-racial casting is desired. People are needed who can act, sing and dance. Enrollment for credit is required. Call 881-3118 for information.



Even Trish can butch it up.

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THIS

FRIDAY 17

- **Mindset:** a playground is transformed by artists into a life-size chessboard of chess pieces that honor great thinkers of the past. March 9-12 and 16-18; 8 p.m.-12 a.m. March 12 matinee 1-5 p.m. 455 10th Street. \$4 at the door.
- **El Rio:** presents Peggy Key, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover. 3158 Mission. Phone: 282-3325.
- **Artist Television Access:** Videos: "Weird San Francisco" and "Weird Amsterdam," 8:30 p.m., \$5. 992 Valencia/21st Street. Warning: Not for the faint-hearted.
- **Ohlone College Gay/Lesbian Alliance:** meeting and social activities, 7:30 p.m. in cafeteria, open to students and Fremont community members. Call: 415/659-1627 or 659-6000.
- **Gay/Lesbian Parents Support Group:** meeting and potluck sponsored by Ministry of Light. First Presbyterian Church, Stewart Room (use church back entrance), 1510 5th Ave., San Raphael, at 7:30 p.m. Childcare: \$2 per family.
- **Social Gathering:** for the supporters of Kairos House, 114 Douglass, 5-7 p.m. Information: 861-0877.

SATURDAY 18

- **Queen of Swords:** a play about a woman's personal transformation by awakening to the mythic qualities within herself. Theater Rinoceros, 2926 16th St., through April 15. Call 861-5079 for showtimes and tickets.
- **SF Gay Men's Chorus:** "Signature Show," Herbst Theater, March 18-19, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$10-\$25, at Herbst box office, STBS, Word Processing Services (2354 Market/Castro), or call 415/552-3656.
- **"Esther: A Model Queen":** Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's Pre-Purim Party, come as your favorite Purim character, 8-11 p.m., dancing. Bring donations for AIDS. Steve: 651-5857.
- **Western Roundup Women's Dance:** to benefit Living Sober '89. 9 p.m.-1 a.m., First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin, S.F. Clean and sober event, sliding scale: \$6-12 donation. Childcare provided, wheelchair accessible.
- **Amelia's Goes Country and Western:** Wear CW duds and receive \$1 off regular \$5 cover. CW dance class with Alane Freund, 7-10 p.m. Two-step all night with DJ Dorian.
- **CREW:** presents "Greenhouse: An Evening of Jungle Madness," 520 4th St., \$7 cover, doors at 9:30 p.m.
- **Fraternal Order of Gays Garage Sale:** March 18 & 19, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Fog House, 304 Gold Mine Dr., S.F. Lots of great buys. Call 641-0999 for details.
- **Forum:** New Lesbian/Gay Community Center: open to individuals and organizations interested in a new community center. Sponsored by SF MCC, 150 Eureka. 12 noon-5 p.m. Call MCC at 863-4434.
- **Bay Area Bisexual Network Garage Sale:** to benefit 1990 Int. Bisexual Conference. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 3964 18th St./Noe. Info: 821-3534.
- **Sisterspirit Bookstore/Coffeehouse:** Blush Productions-BurLEZk Strip Tease Show. Adults only, doors: 8 p.m., show: 8:30 p.m. \$5-10 scale. 1040 Park Ave., San Jose.
- **Workshop By and For Women of Color:** focus on cross-racial hostility and internalized racism. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$20-40 scale. 700 Church Rm. 201. Call: 626-6441 or 431-3650.
- **EastBay FrontRunners:** Alameda Shoreline-take 23rd Ave exit off Hwy 17 to Kennedy St. Continue (street merges briefly with 23rd Ave) turn right onto Park St. Cross Park Bridge to end of Park St. Meet at Park and Shoreline Dr. Flat 3-5 mile loop. Info: 939-3579 or 865-6792.
- **SF FrontRunners:** meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park at 9 a.m. No-host brunch follows, beginners welcome. Info: 453-4118.
- **SF Different Spokes:** John Muir House Ride & Barbeque-mostly flat route. Women encouraged to participate. Barbeque follows at Tom's house. Bring snacks, \$3 for barbeque, helmets recommended, rain cancels. RSVP to Tom: 236-1944.

SUNDAY 19

- **G 40 Plus Club:** Randy Krivoni to speak on homosexuality/phobia in the dance world. Details: 552-1997.
- **El Rio:** features Tumbao y Cuerdas (Cuban music) 4-8 p.m., \$7 cover. 3158 Mission. Phone: 282-3325.
- **Dancers Stage:** Seth Montfort, pianist, and guest artist Phoebe Thomas Claffi, play Mozart, Chopin, and Montfort. 60 Brady, near Market btwn Valencia/S. Van Ness, \$6.
- **A Different Light:** features authors Bruce Boone and Kevin Killian, 7 p.m. 489 Castro. Phone: 431-0891.
- **"Open Studio":** Jim Leff hosts photo-realist paintings/lithographs. 170 Duboce, 1-6 p.m. Info: 431-7662.

- **Bisexual Men's Support Group:** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the S.F. location, free. Call Andrew for details: 922-5288.
- **S.F.G.D.I.:** Annual Equinox Beer Bash from 3-6 p.m. at the SF Eagle patio, \$7.
- **Affirmation:** Gay/Lesbian Mormons: Parents of gay children night. Call for details: 641-4554.
- **Men's Clinic:** free/confidential VD testing and treatment for gonorrhea, syphilis, NGU, scabies, lice, venereal warts, etc. AIDS/ARC counselling and referrals. Gay Men's Health Collective, 2339 Durant Ave., 6-8 p.m. Call 644-0425.
- **Electric City:** in San Francisco, Cable 35 every Sunday night at 11:30 p.m. South Bay: every Friday night at 7:30 p.m. on KCAT. The latest in the lesbian/gay community on television.
- **Dignity:** Liturgy for gay/lesbian Catholics and friends at 5:30 p.m. at Dolores Baptist Church, 15th and Dolores. Call 255-9244.
- **Golden Gate MCC:** 10:30 and 7 p.m. at 48 Belcher St., San Francisco. Call 474-4848.
- **Marin MCC Services:** MCC of the Redwoods has services at 6 p.m., 8 Olive St., Mill Valley. Call 388-2315.
- **SF MCC:** Palm Sunday worship services, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (with childcare and signing for the hearing-impaired) and 7 p.m. Call 863-4434. Blessing of palms at Harvey Milk Plaza at 10 a.m.



Crew, where you're asked to "Leave your attitude" special night of Tribal Heat. See listing under S

MONDAY 20

- **Community Action Network News:** 7:30 p.m. on Cable 30, Mountain View. Featured: PWARC Stuart McDonald.
- **Marin County Lesbian Support Group:** sponsored by Ministry of Light. 7:30 p.m. Registration/info: 457-0854.
- **Hayward/Tri-City HIV+ Support Group:** for PWAS/PWARCS, their friends, families, and lovers. Every Monday, 10:11:30 a.m. or 7-8:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 2:30-4 p.m. Call 887-0566 for details.
- **HIV+ Spiritual Support Group:** meeting, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F. Call: 863-4434.
- **Alanon:** Meeting for people with AIDS/ARC/HIV-positive concerns, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 7:30-9 p.m. Call: 621-REST.
- **Emergence/San Francisco:** Gay Christian Scientist group meets at 7:30 p.m. Call: 221-HOME.

WEEK

- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** Support group for older gay men (60+), Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-9 p.m. Call: 626-7000. Free.
- **Country and Western Dance Lessons:** Turf Club, 22517 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Also Tuesday and Thursday.
- **Battle Fatigue:** Support group for primary-care givers based on principles of attitudinal healing, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 5-7 p.m. Call: 621-REST.
- **Spiritual Support Groups for HIV+ Individuals:** Sponsored by the United Methodist AIDS Project, Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez, S.F., 7-9 p.m. Call 647-6051 or 752-3222.
- **Emotional Support Group:** For people who have lost their lovers due to AIDS/ARC, 7:30 p.m. Call Sean Martinfield at 626-4329.

TUESDAY 21

- **SF Chapter NOW:** new member orientation: 7 p.m.; program: 7:30 p.m. Topic: The Secret History of Quilts. The Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Further info: 981-5282.



er attitude at home and dress to sweat," presents a under Saturday for details.

- **B Street:** Danny Williams & Marilyn, the Dating Game. 236 So. B St., San Mateo. Details: 348-4045.
- **Gay Men's Sketch:** erotic sketch night with Pom Star J.D. Slater. Open to all skill levels, bring your own materials. 1229 Folsom, 7-10 p.m., \$10. Reservations: 621-6294.
- **Golden Gate Wrestling Club:** practice every Tuesday, 7 p.m., 3350 20th St./Shotwell. Call Gene: 821-2991.
- **Ministry of Light:** Gay men's support group, 8-9:30 p.m., 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Rm. 18, San Anselmo. Call: 457-0854 or 457-1115.
- **Slightly Older Lesbians:** Small group discussion, Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 7-9 p.m.
- **Community United Against Violence:** Support group for battered gay men, 514 Castro St., S.F., 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Call: 864-3112.
- **AIDS Interfaith Network:** Support group, Parsonage, 555-A Castro St., S.F., 7 p.m., free. Call: 864-7462.
- **Healing Institute:** Meeting/workshop, MCC San Francisco, Room 21, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-10 p.m. Call: 861-0702.

WEDNESDAY 22

- **Female Trouble:** features Jane Genet and the Tacky Snappers, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. 1821 Haight.
- **El Rio:** features comics Marga Gomez, Rick Salinas, Renee Hicks. 9-11 p.m. \$5 cover. 3158 Mission.
- **Gay and Lesbian Older Writers (50+) Group:** meets every Wednesday from 6-8 p.m., at Operation Concern, 1853 Market. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE), 626-7000. Free.
- **Lecture: MeiBeck Chung:** "Substance Abuse: Is This an Issue in the Asian Community?" Sponsored by the Asian/Pacific Sisters. 8 p.m., Asian Inc., 1670 Pine (near Franklin). Call Lori: 750-3385.
- **SF Institute on Aging:** "Recognizing and Coping with Depression," Mount Zion Hospital's Herbst Hall, 1600 Divisadero. Free. Call for details or to register: 885-7352.
- **HIV Education Forum for Patients and Physicians:** 6-8 p.m., Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Oakland in room 1200C, 12th floor of the hospital tower. Call: 596-6120.
- **Operation Recovery Alumni, Inc.:** Group of gay men with at least one year commitment to recovery from alcohol and drug abuse. 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday. Call 550-8561 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for locale and info.
- **Meditation Techniques:** Steve Allen, a Buddhist monk, explores meditation techniques with Caregivers. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. Call: 861-0877.
- **Attitudinal Healing:** Peter Weygant and Marina Sargenti lead a group for Caregivers dealing with stress, 7-8:30 p.m. Kairos House, 114 Douglass. 861-0877.
- **Santa Cruz MCC:** Lenten Living Room Series focusing on self-esteem every Wednesday during Lent. Call (408) 479-4242.

THURSDAY 23

- **The Box:** a gay/lesbian R & B, funk and soul dance club. Cover after 9 p.m.: \$3 member; \$4 non-member. 628 Divisadero. Call 931-1914.
- **El Rio:** features Blues Among Us, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., \$2 cover. 3158 Mission. Call 282-3325.
- **B Street:** Male Express x 2 sexy strippers, \$2 cover, 10 p.m. 236 So. B St., San Mateo. Call: 348-4045.
- **SF Freedom Day Parade and Celebration Committee:** safety subcommittee, 1519 Mission, 7 p.m. Call 864-FREE.
- **An Evening of Fetish and Fantasy:** sure to be a wild night. 8-11 p.m. Beerbust and show, \$8 donation to benefit AIDS Emergency Fund. The End-up, 6th St./Harrison.
- **Down and Dirty Dance and Dance Contest:** at Amelia's, 647 Valencia. Call IMs!: 552-0616.
- **Old Wives Bookstore:** Molly Martin, editor of HARD HATTED WOMEN: STRUGGLES AND SUCCESS IN THE TRADES, will speak with several contributors. 7:30 p.m., 1009 Valencia. Call 821-4675 for details and services.
- **Older Gay Men's Friendship Group (60+):** meets at 2:45 p.m. in the Friendship Room, 711 Eddy. Free. Call Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE): 626-7000.
- **"Outlook": Gay/Lesbian Video Magazine:** 6:30 p.m. on Cable 63 in Sacramento, Viacom Cable 6 in San Francisco; 8 p.m. on Cable 30 in Cupertino, Los Altos; 8:30 p.m. on Cable 30 in Mountain View. Featured: Kairos House.
- **"Frameline Presents": Gay/Lesbian Video Magazine:** 8 p.m., SF Viacom Cable 25. Featured: SF Trojans in last year's Gay Men's Football Game with West Hollywood Sun Devils, director Peter Dolan, author Bob Owens, and Estelle Getty.
- **Federal Employees with AIDS/ARC Seminar:** focusing on available benefits packages for those currently employed and those considering separation. 11 a.m., SF AIDS Foundation Client Services Office, 25 Van Ness, 6th floor. Pre-registration required: 864-5855.
- **SF FrontRunners:** meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park at 6:30 p.m. Call: 453-4118.
- **Maundy Thursday at SFMCC:** Holy Communion and Tennebrae at 7:30 p.m., 150 Eureka. Readings to commemorate oppression and liberation.
- **HIV+ Support Group:** meets weekly at 6 p.m. Operation Concern, 1853 Market. No fee/registration. Call: 626-7000.
- **Grief Recovery:** weekly support group 6 p.m.-8 p.m. at Hospice By the Bay, 1550 Sutter. Call 673-2020.
- **ARC Support Group:** meets weekly at 6 p.m. at Health Center No. 1, 3850 17th St., Room 206. No fee/registration. All PWARC are welcomed. Info: 626-7000.
- **S.F. Water Polo:** Practices, 8-9 p.m., in Berkeley. Men and women of all ability levels welcomed. Call John at 621-0783 or Laurie at 255-9091.
- **Asian/Pacific Island HIV:** Support group for bisexual and gay men, Rest Stop, 134 Church St., S.F., 8-9:30 p.m. Call 621-REST.
- **Positive Opportunities for Wellness:** Support group for men with HIV+, ARC, or AIDS, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Facilitated by Julian Baird. Refreshments. Call 285-3561.

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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

No Longer Lovers, Romanovsky & Phillips Still Sing Together
The Banter Crackles and Lyrics Are Still As Sharp As Ever

Some of us had talent
Some of us left town
Some of us had arguments
That tore each other down.
—“At The Rose,” words and
music by Ron Romanovsky

by David Lamble

Once upon a very long time ago, in a place called San Francisco, two very young men met on the edge of Golden Gate Park. Deciding right away to be lovers, the two set up housekeeping in a little hobbit house tucked away in the hills of the Sunset district.

Quite by coincidence the two turned out to be musical, discovering that they harmonized as well on stage as in bed and that one of them could write gay folk songs—sissy boy songs about throwing like a girl and fantasy songs about wanting to have a baby. Our dynamic duo, let's call them Ron and Paul, found themselves playing open mike gigs on comedy nights at a funeral parlour turned gay cabaret: The Valencia Rose Cafe.

Plastering posters all over the place
On phone poles from Castro to
Folsom
Our image was sweet and innocent
I think it was too wholesome
Hecklers were warned not to heckle
The crowds were loyal to us
But did it give us confidence
Or did it only spoil us?

Two years of such a life was making them restless, giving them yearnings that neither The Rose nor the love nest could satisfy. So they traded the hobbit house for a used VW van and set out to create their own lavender vaudeville circuit across the United States and Canada. Somewhat to their surprise, they discovered that their music worked as well for redneck lesbians and gays in the sunbelt as it had for the politically correct of the Mission. They could feel a rush from the crowd whenever they introduced themselves. “Hi, we're Romanovsky and Phillips and we're lovers.”

Not that they became strangers to their adopted hometown. In fact, Ron and Paul were bigger hits than ever on their forays back to the Rose. They discovered the truth of another adage: that the hometown fires burn brightest for those who can make it on the road.

Well nothing lasts forever
And friends don't always stay
friends
Seasons change and so do we
And all good things must end
For just when it was looking up
And people had to wait in line
The place we'd come to call our
home
Belonged to another time



Romanovsky (r) and Phillips (l).

Had Ron and Paul stayed in San Francisco, the closing of the Valencia Rose might have derailed the cozy lives they had enjoyed. But now they were a hit attraction in 40 or 50 cities on the continent. They were playing not only to full houses, but also selling thousands of copies of three albums produced and financed through their own Fresh Fruit Records company.

Romanovsky and Phillips learned there was a substantial box office in lavender America. Before, Paul had to squeeze the career and the relationship around the full time job of managing a bookstore. Ron had to temp as a male secretary (good material for yet another song). But when their singing careers took off, they could be Romanovsky and Phillips... full time.

Even gay people usually have to come from some place other than San Francisco. In Ron's case Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was home for his first 18 years. High school was torture for a sensitive young man who couldn't tell his parents he was gay until he was 18.

High school classmates already seemed to know. “Even though I hadn't come out, they—of course—all knew that I was gay before I did, that's so often how it is,” says Ron, “I started writing songs when I was about 16 to work out my problems.”

While still a teenager, Ron had a first-time relationship with an older man, a relationship he credits with helping him adjust to life as a gay adult. He saluted that relationship in a song he called “Family of Lovers.”

Paul's childhood was no more auspicious. Born 34 years ago in West Virginia, the son of a Baptist minister and a teacher. He says, “I like to think I come from a performing family.”

Coming out for Paul took place at Wheaton College, a very conservative Christian college which boasts Billy Graham as its most distinguished graduate. Paul took the bold step of coming out publicly to friends and classmates at Wheaton. He remembers their standard reply.

“They used to say things like, ‘Don't worry, Paul, the Lord's going to save you from this and we're praying for you.’”

After Paul left Wheaton he learned that his best friend there had been in the closet. “In the course of his coming out to me,” Paul remembers, “he told me about so many different people, who I was close friends with, who basically were lying their heads off to me, talking this anti-gay line. I was celibate and they were all having affairs with each other behind everybody's back.”

Paul adds that this bitter experience taught him that it's often true that the worst homophobes are people who are deep in their own closet. Their mutually tough coming-out experiences would later produce the song, “Tell The Children.”

How business doesn't know many happily-ever-after tales and this isn't one of the few. Ron and Paul found that as their stage act improved, their private lives together—oh so together touring months at a time—were starting to pinch.

Last year, to the shock and dismay of their thousands of fans, Ron and Paul announced they were still an act but no longer a couple. Never at a loss for a laugh at their own expense, Ron and Paul discussed the break-up on stage before 450 fans at San Francisco's Great American Music Hall last Dec. 11.

In his usual deadpan, Ron quipped: “What's the hardest thing you can do with your ex-lover? Travel together for three months in a small European car around the country. Welcome to the Breaking-Up-Is-Hard-To-Do Tour. Hell on wheels, or, can't get you out of my life.”

To which Paul responded, “What is life but material.” And, Ron confessed, “A lot of our old songs have come back to haunt us. A lot of our old songs that were not autobiographical are now.”

There were songs such as “Trouble in Paradise,” “Guilt Trip” and “I've Created a Monster.” Ron's pride at never being at a loss for a good lyric from whatever life deals them was best illustrated in the deliciously ambiguous words to a new love ballad unveiled that night.

My friends encouraged me to get
some therapy
Cause when you left me I was such
a mess
I thought it was the end for me
And I found myself astonished by
his empathy

He calls it “progress” when I cry
Oh what a sweet and sensitive guy
Why couldn't you have been like this
Oh no no no no no no no no
No no no no no no
I'm in love with my therapist!
—“Oh No, I'm In Love,” lyrics by
Ron Romanovsky; music by
Romanovsky and Phillips

In a broadcast interview two years before the breakup, Ron and Paul joked that they could never work together once their romance ended. The evidence of their latest tour seems to indicate that their onstage patter has only gotten sharper, the personal subtexts more pointed now that they are no longer lovers.

When Ron, in San Francisco, called one of their favorite duets “a song about a person who loves too much,” Paul immediately chimed in, “It's a song about a guy who is not very good at giving love.” Ron responded, “I know what the song is about. I wrote the lyrics.” Paul snapped back, “Big deal! I lived the song.”

For many old Rose diehards, Romanovsky and Phillips made living through the Reagan years much more bearable. There has never been a better Reagan-ragging tune than “Don't Use Your Penis For a Brain.”

I wish that when he runs the country
He would use his other head!

Following their well-publicized and potentially costly legal brush with the Reagan-appointed Federal Communications Commission, Pacifica Radio banned airplay of both the penis song as well as “The Sodomy Song,” Ron and Paul's protest against the Supreme Court's ruling in the Michael Hardwick case and the sodomy laws on the books in over 20 states.

But for all the good political satire put forth by the guys, it is worth the price of admission just to see them in full costume as they stride on stage: Ron, brown hair moussed to a spiky point, a revealing black tank top setting off blond Paul in black hose, white jacket, white ruffled skirt, black earrings, black straight brim hat, black car gloves, black boots and cheap costume jewelry. Says Paul, “It's not my fault that I was blessed with legs that look good in a dress. Will someone in the front row let me know if the crotch of my pantyhose is creeping towards visibility?”

At last report Ron and Paul were said to be mulling over their future career and life moves at their former joint residence in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Once, when they were becoming particularly tired of having their music described as folk and themselves called the gay Simon and Garfunkel or Smothers Brothers, they started asking their fans to start thinking of them as a same sex counterpart to Madonna and Sean Penn.

They've come a long way from Golden Gate Park. ▼

Mountain Mama

Dianne Davidson Ready to Turn On S.F. Again

by Allen White

Mountain Mama is back in town, she's a dyke and she is getting ready to turn the Great American Music Hall upside down. This mama is the wonderful Dianne Davidson and she has hit the women's music scene from Nashville like a Texas tornado.

Two weeks ago, she tore up the GiftCenter at the Cable Car Awards with her unique stylings. That performance came on the heels of her introduction to many women at the 15th anniversary concert of Olivia Records last year and a subsequent video.

Her recording, *Breaking All the Rules*, won the Cable Car Award for Outstanding Recording Artist. Last November, the New York Times heralded her as some of the "most exciting music of the evening" at an Olivia concert at Carnegie Hall.

San Francisco is far from new to Dianne Davidson and San Francisco's gay audiences. She fondly remembers playing to packed houses 15 years ago. What was truly different then was the audience was primarily men.

"We played to packed crowds at the Rainbow Cattle Company and even at the Stud. I was having such a great time. I mean the guys were great. It was back in 1976 and 1977 and it was all men. Everywhere we played it was packed," Davidson said.

"Now coming back it's all women. Olivia does their mailing and it's mainly to women. For years it has been really separated. When we play in Nashville we drew a really mixed crowd. I would hate to think that I am doing something that couldn't appeal to everybody."

The switch in the audience makeup has come because she has signed with Olivia Records and her records are being released on their Second Wave label. For 15 years, Olivia has been a company that steadfastly produces music by women aimed primarily at a lesbian audience.

Davidson is not new to the recording business. She has to her credit four albums including "Mountain Mama," three singles and a list of recording and performing credits that vary from Linda Ronstadt to B.B. King, Jimmy Buffet, Dan Fogelberg, Leon Russell and even Barry Manilow.

"There is a risk," she said of Olivia. "I was coming into the women's music from a mainstream. I had always done mainstream labels and mainstream audiences."

Being an Olivia artist, she says also means "there is never enough money at an independent label, there never is, and that I could be pigeonholed is the only negative."

On the other hand, "The positives just really add up. For one thing you have a company that really believes in you. There is no indifference. The other side is I get to do whatever I want to do. People must understand there is a definite correlation between personal and artistic freedom and appearing to be in control of yourself. If they start chipping away at who you are then you don't have that strength anymore. It is hopefully a powerful experience."

If there might ever have been a stereotype of a women's music singer, Dianne Davidson certainly breaks the mold.

At last year's 15th anniversary concert, she remembers, "We were just twice as loud. We're different. Most of the Olivia people didn't know what to expect." Indeed, neither did the audience. When she hit the stage it was like a bunch of rowdies had just invaded the U.C. campus and planned to stir it up. And stir it up they did. "We're rowdy but we're also fun loving," she admits, adding, "We have the strangest sense of humor. They always put us in the farthest dressing room."

The Dianne Davidson aggregation has been moving through Northern California these past few days playing to wild and enthusiastic audiences. Last week they were at La Pena in Berkeley. They then moved on to Turlock and last Saturday night they performed in Santa Cruz.



She performs two shows this Friday night at 8 and 10:30 p.m. at the Great American Music

Hall in San Francisco. Tickets are \$10 and on sale in advance at BASS and at the door. ▼

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Back To Tonality

While opera audiences crave the familiar sounds of well-known arias, one of the biggest problems they face when first encountering a contemporary work is the simple task of getting accustomed to the sounds of new music. Composers who try to prove their brilliance as orchestrators are often tempted to go for the big bang when composing a new opera and, during the period when atonality, electronic noise and musical mayhem reigned supreme, a singer's voice was often treated by an operatic composer as little more than a nuisance factor.

In the period from 1958-1960 (when a world premiere was included in each one of the New York City Opera's seasons) NYCO receives a special grant from the Ford Foundation to bring in composers and librettists who were themselves at work on new operas. "Because many composers don't know enough about what makes opera tick, these people were permitted to sit in, walk around, get in our hair and ask whatever they wanted to know—just to see how an opera is formed. But I don't think any of those people ever came up with a viable opera. Most of them had been encouraged by Schoenberg and Berg, who write cruelly for the voice," recalls conductor Julius Rudel, "and music has to hit your heart and your emotions. Not just your cerebral reactions."

Back in those days, there was no program in place (other than

City Opera's Ford Foundation grant) which would allow composers to work directly with the people who produce opera on a regular basis in order to better understand the art form as they began working on a new piece. In recent years, however, the process of workshopping a new opera has gained favor and both the Lyric Opera of Chicago and Canadian Opera Company have instituted important Composer-in-Residence programs. Thanks to Opera America's "Opera Into The Eighties And Beyond" program (OFTEAB), more than 300 pre-commissioning grants, explorations fellowships (which allow general directors and senior staff to see performances of contemporary works, visit exhibitions and meet with various artists), team-building grants (which encourage short-term residencies by a team of composers, librettists, designers and directors) and development grants (which help cover the cost of getting a new opera to the point where a work-in-progress reading can be presented) have been awarded to American and Canadian opera companies.

The results have been quite interesting. Among the operas premiered in recent years, *Nixon In China*, *Casanova*, *Joruri*, *X: The Life And Times of Malcolm X* and *Three Sisters* have all exhibited a noticeably higher level of sophistication and stageworthiness (not to mention a stronger set of musical values). Two works which receive their world



Frederica von Stade and Elisabeth Soderstrom starred as Tina and her Aunt Juliana in the world premiere of Dominick Argento's *The Aspern Papers* at the Dallas Opera.

premieres in November (*The Aspern Papers* and *West of Washington Square*) were particularly newsworthy for their lack of cacophony and each composer's dedication to scoring orchestral parts very heavily for strings. What I find most interesting about this phenomenon is the evidence of a distinct return to tonality as composers discover that there is absolutely nothing wrong with writing lyrically for the human voice or, God forbid, writing music that actually deserves to be sung!

Shortly after Thanksgiving, Opera San Jose presented the world premiere of Alva Henderson's *West of Washington Square*. Based on two short stories by O. Henry, Henderson's work demands an extremely intimate setting and, in this respect, San Jose's 530-seat Montgomery Theatre was a perfect fit. Since this tiny jewel box of an auditorium has precious little wing space, Ken Holamon's rotating set did a superb job of altering moods while moving the puzzle-like unit set just far enough to accommodate the plot's dramatic needs. Alas, when required to portray older people, the high energy level of Opera San Jose's young artists occasionally worked against them in such a small space and, with only a tiny stage to work on, large gestures quickly seemed dangerously out of scale.

If there was a noticeable difference in quality between the two acts of Henderson's opera, there are several reasons why. The first act of *West of Washington Square* was composed nearly a decade ago and, since then, Henderson's skill as a composer has increased tremendously. The libretto for the second act was written by veteran poet Janet Lewis instead of by the composer and her skill with words obviously outshines Henderson's.

Therefore, while Act I (based on O. Henry's short story entitled *The Last Leaf*) occasionally seemed like an uncomfortable production of an opera written by a grad student for his university's opera workshop, Act II (based on *The Third Ingredient*) was an infinitely more polished product which would make a nice curtain-raiser for a darker contemporary piece like *The Medium* or *La Voix Humaine*.

As the aging Mr. Behrman, Ron Gerard delivered a nice cameo to which Janis Wilcox offered a strong foil as the skinflint landlady, Mrs. O'Gara. Douglas Nagel's passionate Paul was neatly balanced by Elizabeth Enmann's Kate (Enmann also sang the role of Helen in Act I). I was most impressed with the performances of Susan Gundunas as Cathy and Eilana Lappalainen as Anna. Lappalainen's voice and stage presence grab an audience in a way that is quite rare for a young artist and this talented soprano could have a very interesting future ahead of her.

OLD MAID ALERT

There is much to recommend Dominick Argento's *The Aspern Papers* (which received its world premiere from the Dallas Opera, was taped for delayed broadcast on PBS and will be presented in January 1990 by the Washington Opera) and, while attending a performance of its premiere production in Texas, I was pleasantly shocked by the lyricism and gentility with which the composer adapted Henry James's novel. Who knows? Maybe we are heading for a kinder and gentler society after all! In any case, Argento's unabashedly romantic and old-fashioned opera offers its singers some very good music which sits comfortably on the audience's ears.

This new opera contains two juicy female leads and Elisabeth Soderstrom scored a huge personal triumph as Juliana (the opera singer who had been living with Aspern at the time of the composer's mysterious death). As her shy spinster niece, Tina, Frederica von Stade found a role ideally suited to her dramatic strengths and brought it to life with great skill. Neil Rosenheim's impulsive composer, Richard Stilwell's opportunistic lodger and Katherine Ciesinski's radiant Sonia offered strong contributions to the evening. But *The Aspern Papers* is really a show for the two women singing the roles of Juliana and Tina and the result was a handsome artistic achievement for both von Stade and Soderstrom.

While I was especially impressed by John Conklin's atmospheric unit set and the clarity of Mark Lamos' stage direction, one thing seemed very wrong with this premiere: the size of the theatre in which Argento's opera was staged. The 3,500-seat State Fair Music Hall in which the Dallas Opera performs is a cavernous barn frighteningly ill-tailored to the intimate demands of an opera about delicacy, vulnerability and deceit. I suspect that, when staged in the Kennedy Center's 1,150-seat Eisenhower Theatre next season (or edited for television) its theatrical impact will be much more powerful. I'll let you know a year from now. ▼

2 Sites Set For 'Yeats Fragments'

The San Francisco Chamber Singers, directed by Robert Geary, will hold the premiere of "Yeats Fragments" by San Francisco composer Mark Wings, on Saturday, April 1 at 8 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian (College and Garber) in Berkeley and on Sunday, April 2 at First Unitarian Center (Franklin and Geary) in San Francisco at 7:30 p.m.

This second program in the tenth anniversary concert series will also include Kirke Mechem's "Five Centuries of Spring," and new arrangements of old folk songs: "Les Raftsmen," arranged by Ruth Watson, "Green-sleeves" and "That Lucky Old Sun," arranged by Smith and Wesslen, and "Get to Bed," arranged by Derek Healey.

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A Tribe Within A Tribe

Charles Gatewood Shows a Different Side of Life With Two New Videos About 'Wierd' Places

by Mark I. Chester

On Friday, March 17, at 8:30 p.m., at Artist's Television Access, 992 Valencia St., recently transplanted New York photographer and writer cum video artist Charles Gatewood will unleash his two newest unusual video documentaries, *Wierd San Francisco* and *Wierd Amsterdam*. For a \$5 admission charge, you can see "a lot of underground stuff that even a lot of San Franciscans have never seen. Just all kinds of very strange goings-on," according to Gatewood.

When asked if the subjects make up "a variety of various unsavory people," Gatewood says, "Actually, I think they're savory to the point of being tasty myself." He smiles without missing a beat. This is a man who has been upsetting the applecarts of the world's Ozzies and Harriets for years. His pictorial revelations have ripped the lid off America's pulsating darkly sexual underground.

He is the mutant child of Diane Arbus, Charles Bukowski and Hunter S. Thompson. Take, for example, this more down-to-earth statement from his wife's divorce action filed with the Supreme Court of the State of New York, "...he spent his evenings and nights getting pictures or posing for pictures of an unpublishable nature."

The man is an adventure and so are his videos. These randy underground travelogues aren't slickly produced MTV videos spliced to a deadening drummer's beat. They are raw, one camera slice-of-life video verite. There are punks, sword swallowers, a European Dominatrix, a storyteller hooker, heavily tattooed men and women, pierced penises, a nude psychedelic rock and roll band, not to mention a mistress whose kink is infantilism.

Gatewood's book *Sidetrapping* was popular in the gay community with its rambling, bizarre, stingingly pusty narration by William Burroughs. It was a just-right match for Gatewood's disturbingly razor real black and white photographs.

Although Gatewood is not gay, he feels a strong connection and brotherhood with the lesbian and gay community. "I've been an outsider ever since I was a little kid. I knew I was different," he confides. "I like to think of all these people (all outsiders) as members of one big wierd tribe. And each group is a little tribe within the big tribe."

"These are my people," he adds. "Why do you think I'm drawn to photographing the underground and all these subcultures? I'm one of them. And the more I do it, the more I know that I am one of them." With a background in anthropology, Gatewood now studies cultures and their customs with a camera. He is attracted to a special brand of outsider.

"There are two kinds of deviants," he says. "There's the kind of people who are ashamed because they have done something really shameful and they

want to hide it." But suddenly with an impish glint in his eye he adds, "And then there's the kind of deviance where people are proud of what they are doing. That's the kind that fascinates me. You might call it positive or enlightened deviance."

"I like exhibitionists," Gatewood continues. "Extroverted people who are proud of what they are doing and proud of their differences. People who are anxious and eager to share their differences with the world. I seek those people out." Gay fabric is part of the fabric he has woven.

For years he has been traveling around the country photographing, capturing and participating in gatherings of one tribe or another. Mardi Gras. Bike Week for Harley-Davidson bikers in Daytona Beach. Piercing Parties.

Tattoo Conventions. There is always another gathering to attend.

Somewhere along the line, stimulated by the Jury's film based on his photographic work, Gatewood picked up a video camera. "Somehow my take was too abstract and too limited for what I was trying to do. So I decided to see if I could make it move and walk and talk... and make it do all of that in color. All of a sudden I realized that for years I've been a frustrated filmmaker and that I'd been denying that part of my work," he states.

That realization changed his life. Gatewood and his company, Flash Productions, will list some 20 titles when their new catalog is released in

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One of photographer/video artist Charles Gatewood's more sedate images; they are usually wonderfully, wildly weird.

(Photo: Gatewood)

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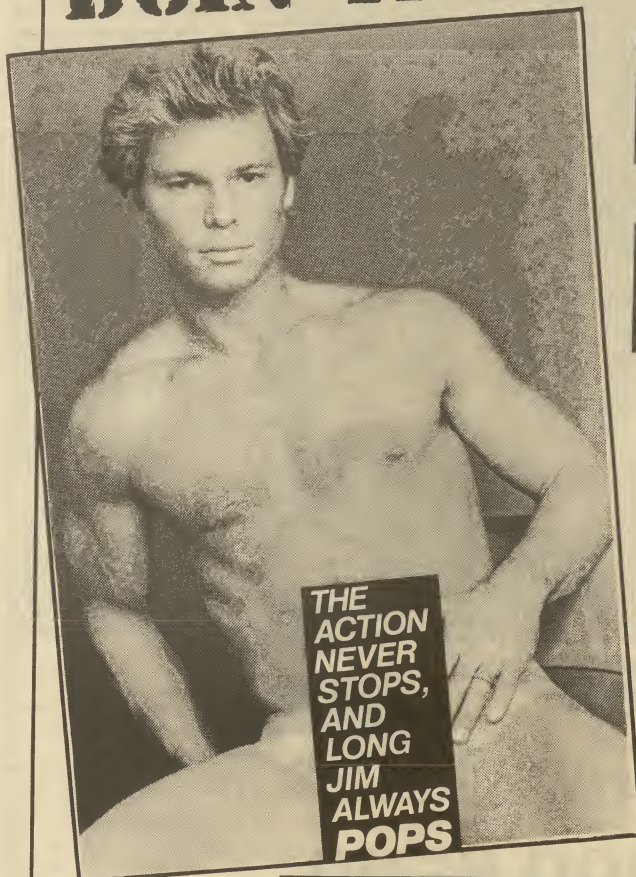
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STAGE

'Queen of Swords'

Fosse-esque Dancing And Surrealistic Sets

by David Perry

Long before Christopher Marlowe penned her as "the face that launched a thousand ships," the goddess of beauty existed throughout the world of mythology: Helen of Troy to the Greeks, Elaine to the Celts, Inanna to the Sumerians, and Venus to the Romans. Poet/playwright Judy Grahn has taken bits of each of these, thrown in a healthy blend of pan-religious iconography, and come up with a dazzlingly theatrical pastiche to explore the mythic qualities of 'everywoman' in the world premiere of her play in music and poetry, *Queen of Swords*, currently at Theatre Rhinoceros.

Helen Venus (Iris Landsberg) lives in a glass house. She's bored. She's beautiful. She's married to a none-too-exciting man who spends most of his time bent over a telescope. And so, she goes exploring and falls down a hole into Underland—a lesbian bar lorded over by its denim-strutting owner, Ershkigal (Imani Harrington). Before she is allowed to return Aboveworld, Helen must travel through Belowworld's seven gates, debase herself as servant to the acrobatic "crows" who hang out at the bar,

and rip from her own polluted consciousness the collective memory of her own feminism.

Whew!

Long an active voice in the lesbian/feminist movement, Grahn uses her poetry like a dagger: "We who are women are always at war," "she thinks she's something when she's less than nothing," "nothing is important," "it is a modern human's nature to construct an ugly world then not like it," "I'd go crazy if I had to bear witness as much as you do," etc, etc.

Queen of Swords takes an Amazon's aim at societal stereotypes, and often with a poisonously and self-deprecatingly funny tipped arrow. "You can't hate us, we're lesbians," the bar denizens shrug to an overburdened Helen at one point, then proceed to dance, sing, and mime the joys and hypocrisies of their persuasion. Helen's defense to the charge that she is little more than a servant to her Aboveworld husband is likewise acidly double-edged: "I'm not a slave. I'm just well-behaved."

Queen of Swords is not a well-behaved play. This is at once its strength and weakness. From the

splendid surrealism of Pamela Peniston's cartoonlike set, Stephanie Johnson's light design and Cara Schwindt's costumes, you know to be prepared for anything at an inhalation's notice. The all-female chorus, echoing the male-only ensembles of ancient Greek drama, are a wonder to behold. Anne Bleuthenthal's choreography fits them like lycra, and their sensual omnipresence throughout the play stamps this production as the most challenging and original Rhino has ever attempted.

They inhabit Grahn's world like bloodthirsty Maenads. Director Adele Prandini uses them to full advantage, balancing their Bob Fosse-esque dancing and mime nicely with the onstage band under the direction of Jeanine Strobel. It's a three-ring lesbian circus squeezed into one. It's the cumulative effect of the squeezes that comprises the weakness.

By the end of Act One, we have been led through three of Belowworld's seven gates. The exploration of the remaining four becomes tedious somewhere around Gate Five. Grahn would be well-advised to drastically

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The Goddess of Death and Transformation seduces Helen, the Goddess of Love and Beauty. (l. to r. Imani Harrington, Iris Landsberg.)

(Photo: Jill Posener)

'Driving Miss Daisy'

Acting Is Brilliant, But The Script Is Lightweight

by David Perry

Seldom does an author's first play win the Outer Critics' Circle Award, much less the Pulitzer Prize. And seldom is a playwright graced with the likes of Julie Harris and Brock Peters to give that work indelible performances which will live in theatre's collective memory. But, of course, that is exactly what has happened to Alfred Uhry, longtime lyricist and protégé of the late musical giant Frank Loesser. First time up on the legit boards, Uhry has scored this remarkable coup. All the hoopla is understandable—to a point.

Driving Miss Daisy is a respectable premiere. Clever, sleek, sentimental, and well-made, it is the perfect star vehicle. Deeply probing it is not. Like Katharine Hepburn's farewell to the stage, the *West Side Waltz* of eight seasons ago, *Driving Miss Daisy* would be hard-pressed to stand on its own without radiant and solid stellar casting. In this, *Daisy* is most fortunate.

As the fiercely independent septuagenarian forced to give up her own mobility for a chauffeur, Julie Harris is nothing short of perfect. She gives the sort of performance audiences have come to expect and cherish from this most versatile and subtle of stage professionals. She endows the final 20 odd years of Daisy's life with the range and growth usually reserved for characters aging during younger decades.

Brock Peters treads a fine line with his portrayal of the black chauffeur Hoke Coleburn. Undoubtedly, some blacks and many whites will squirm at the "Uncle Tomishness" of Peters' study. There is still something uncomfortable about watching a black man bowing and scraping to a white person with money. If you were born in the south, the feeling becomes more tangible still.

To his credit, Peters doesn't resort to gimmick or stock, but acts as perfect foil to Harris' more colorful character. Sadly, though a back seat driver in plot, Harris cannot help but overshadow the simplicity of Peters' work onstage. As the decade of civil rights sweeps over the forced friendship between Daisy and Hoke, we watch Miss Daisy grow. Hoke merely maintains.

Uhry is clearly in love with the character of Miss Daisy, loosely patterned after his own grandmother. A southerner and a Jew,

Uhry's is a unique perspective. Unfortunately, it is a perspective not fully fleshed out for others.

However, with all the visual correctness of the production, you can't help but wish there was something more, something more substantial. Uhry's best moment comes in the character of Boolie (Stephen Root), Miss Daisy's son who has insisted on the driver for his mother. When his mother insists on going to hear Martin Luther King, Jr. speak at a dinner in his honor, Boolie explains that he cannot go and still expect to do business in town. Root, not given star billing along with Harris and Peters, nevertheless undergoes the play's most painful transformation. Telling the born-again liberal Miss Daisy that he wants to go, "but can't," we see a man struggling with the life-shaping issues of personal integrity and honor. Ultimately, Boolie doesn't go to the banquet, and from that point on, he seems slightly humbled, slightly ashamed. Root's is an unexpected and beautifully etched performance.

Miss Daisy is a Jew. Hoke is black. It doesn't take a Ph.D. to figure out this most overt parallel. When Daisy discovers her temple has been bombed, and Hoke empathizes with a story of watching a lynching when he was young, Daisy fails to see the connection. We knew that would be her response. The audience seems to nod—wants to nod—as if to say, "Yes, poor dear. If only she could see."

We are never allowed to judge Daisy too harshly. We like her every step of the way. At the top of the show when she states to her son, "You know I'm not prejudiced," we have been set up perfectly. We know the lesson Miss Daisy is going to learn, and the one we are supposed to take out of the theatre with us. There is no need for any more discomfort on our part. Bad prejudice, Uhry seems to be saying, bad.

Driving Miss Daisy is at most a gentle rap on the knuckles, but one delivered with a feather, not a hard wooden ruler. ▼

★ ½
Driving Miss Daisy
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Different Sights From Onsights

by Robert Frank

An artists' group known as Onsights has produced an unusual and interesting art show involving a life-size chessboard and creative chess pieces honoring great thinkers of the past. The show, called *Mindset*, was created by 19 artists whose art pieces are expressions of the artists' thoughts and impressions of certain historical innovators.

The chessboard is to give the viewer "an intricate illusion of balance and influence as each piece stands in isolation but moves as part of the whole," as Jesus Christ, the White King, faces ignored physicist Nikola Tesla, the Black King. Each chesspiece has a title and a subject, the "subject" being the historic character who provides the inspiration for the "title" and the piece itself.

As an example, the historical "subject" of the Black Queen is Euripedes, the ancient Greek playwright whose play, *Bacchae*, expresses his views on "Dionysian Religion and the dangers of Patriarchal institutions," and its title is "Dionysus and the Matriarchy." The piece itself is composed of a back-lighted black drape, a black-and-white marbled ball topped by a black peg board containing lighted red pegs arranged in the shape of the medical symbol for woman, further topped with black horns and a willowy, metallic-spray crown, and alongside is an ivy-wrapped, pine-cone-capped scepter.

One of the White Rooks is the Ezra Pound piece, titled "Commit That Indiscretion." It is a large white cage topped by a smaller one, each containing books with white covers, with artificial white doves attached to the outside of the cages, as if they were fluttering around them. Publicity notes indicate that, besides being a poet and a critic who "greatly influenced the Modern Movement," Pound was a Fascist who had been incarcerated for years and had spent his last years in self-imposed exile.

Another White Rook is represented by Walt Disney, titled "Audio-Animatronics." Although he could not draw Mickey Mouse nor sign that world-renowned "Walt Disney" signature, "he was able to focus the skills and energy of many people to make his dreams reality." A leaf was taken, so to speak, from Disney's own "Hall of Presidents" by artist Michael Brown—namely, a talking bust of Disney, but the glass-enclosed case upon which it rests displays the inner mechanisms and large tape spools.

Probably the most elaborate piece is Jesus Christ as the White King, titled "The Last Mysteries," draped in silky-gauzy, diaphanous material, arms outstretched, hands turned palms up, above which dangle miniature mirror-paneled balls which catch the light (like the larger ones that once twirled overhead in dance palaces of the past).

The face is half of a copper mask. Through the transparent material can be seen a golden-faced Buddha at approximately the point where the midriff would be. Buddha in turn holds a lamp,

each side of which has a different glass panel. This lamp is topped by what looks like a crown, pinned to which is a tiny (plastic?) Infant Jesus from a manger set. All of this is on top of a rectangular, translucent jukebox-like cum square Paris-kiosk-like affair, dotted with pictures, symbols and sayings, and finally, "The Last Mysteries Are In You." Artist Thom Story dedicated this work to the Duquette Pavillion.

One of the most intricate, and meticulously fashioned, is the Black Bishop piece titled "Pope Joan." It is a three-tiered display, part diorama, part pictured scenes, of her life, plus on one side a wood-framed slate of her image in chalk about to be erased by a blackboard eraser in an artificial hand ("Pope Joan was erased from history"). Above that is the medical symbol of woman being clutched and pulled on either side by hands and arms



The life-size chessboard of *Mindset* and the White Rook, Walt Disney.

labeled respectively as "Church" and "Husband." Lisa and Denise Woodward are the artists.

Some of the other contributing artists are Tracy Dick, Richard Bord, Bill Smart, Todd Pearson plus many others. Their

work can be seen at Fourfivefivethstreet which is located at 455 Tenth Street, between Harrison and Bryant, in San Francisco, Thursdays through Sundays until March 18. Admission is \$4 at the door.



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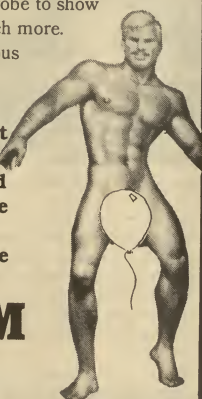
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Mr. Marcus

Looking for Mr. South of Market

This Saturday night, March 18, it's another chapter in the never-ending search for leather titles. Chad Siebold will give up his title to the new winner of the Mr. South of Market competition. The doors open at 2030 hours, the donation (for the AIDS Emergency Fund) is \$8 and Al Parker and Rick Ramirez will introduce you to the contestants, the judges and the entertainment (Foggy City) plus some other surprises. Mr. Leather of San Diego, Ed Winant, will be here and a lot of your pals from the Miracle Mile, the deadline for contestants is 1500 Saturday afternoon at the rehearsal and pre-judging. This event is sort of a kick-off for the following week when we'll be experience the third annual International Ms. Leather Contest and associated events, but more on that later. Hope to see all of you at the S.F. Eagle this Saturday night for the contest.

★ ★ ★

Notice how the days are getting longer? That means spring is just around the corner. Hopefully the weather will improve; it tends to put you in a good mood and you want to get out and marvel at all of nature's creatures, including that hot man or lady you've been wanting to meet. The sap is flowing everywhere!

Last Thursday, March 9, Mr. April 1990 on the Eagle's Bare Chest Calendar was chosen, but not before a riotous interlude with judges Emperor Jerry, former Empress Lily Street and Man-About-South of Market David "Puddles" Dysart. Again there were seven hunks on the block and the judges didn't find it easy to pick a winner.

When all the shouting was over (Lily didn't have her megaphone), the winner emerged and he's a 42-year-old oil company employee from Martinez by the name of Bruce Combs. Bruce entered on a dare and was



Bruce Combs (r.) won the Mr. May 1990 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar at the Eagle last Thursday night. Ron Phelps was the 1st runner-up. (Photo: Pruzan)

delighted and surprised to win—you see, he had dieted and lost several pounds for months in preparation for the event. The runner-up was 29-year-old Ron Phelps, an optician in the Castro. It was a riotous night. The contests are midway through now and the next competition will be for Mr. May 1990 on Thursday, March 23.

The weather didn't cooperate at all on Friday, but Saturday afternoon, the Names Project enjoyed decent weather in the patio at the Eagle. Three walls of the patio were draped with remem-

brances of various South of Market men. The Cal Eagles MC and the Constantines helped out pouring beer and cooking great hamburgers for the fund raiser produced by Chris Minor.

Saturday night, the PAWS people staged an elaborate art auction at Moby Dick and again on Sunday at the Pilsner Inn. The efforts of Danny Williams, Deena Jones, Jo Carol and Michael Kearns all combined to raise just a few dollars less than \$11,000 for PAWS. It was derived from some 75 pieces of art from about 50 artists. Good show!



Calendar contestants at the Eagle. (Photo: Pruzan)



The Fiddle Sticks performed at the Names Project Beer Bust.

(Photo: Marcus)

Sunday afternoon, the Cal Eagles MC had their beer bust again at the Eagle with a great turnout and great corned beef and cabbage. Later that night several hundred people gathered in the Peacock Court of the Mark Hopkins Hotel for the AIDS Emergency Fund Kickoff Dinner. Lots of people were honored for the fund-raising efforts during last year, a list too long to mention here. Last year's honorary co-chairs, Bob Ross, Louise Molinari and Danny Williams were brief but effective in their pleas to the audience for continued support of the fund.

The best lines all night from attendees were Jack Molinari: "Now that I'm not running for office anymore, Louise can throw away that Republican cloth coat," as he drug Louise's mink to their table, later on during the entertainment, the golden-throated Scott Johnston brought the house down when, apologizing for the Empress Pat's absence he quipped: "Pat couldn't be here but she sent her headress," as he pointed to the huge golden bas relief of a peacock on the wall of the stage! Rick Booth, everybody's favorite leather guy, looking tan and vibrant from his Australian/Hawaiian holiday, received the Board's Founders Award for his continuing support of the fund, and Hank Cook, two time president, was lauded for outstanding service during his tenure.

Alas, the new honorary co-chair, Supervisor Richard Hongisto, couldn't be there, but the divine Gail Wilson was on hand. It is gratifying to see two straight people head fund raising for this coming year. As Gail put it quite simply, "It's because we care and want to do our part." Bravo! It looks like another good year for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Your continued support is much, much appreciated.

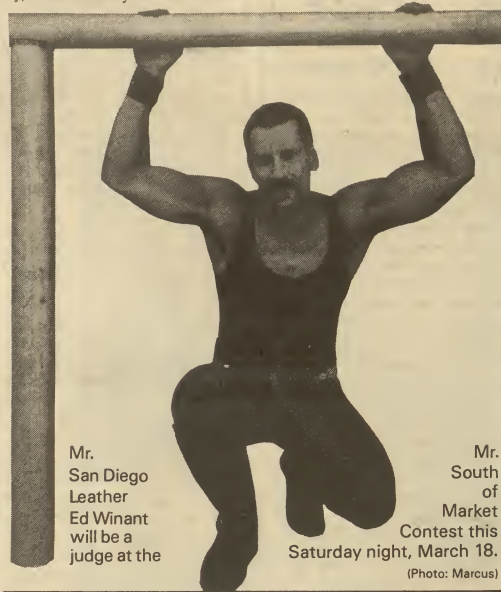
It looks like another busy week and weekend if you're a socializer. Last night, Wednesday, March 15, the first heat of the Mr. S.F. Eagle Leather took place, too late for my deadline, but the second heat is next Wednesday, March 22. All you hot leather guys should get into the competition. Tonight, Thursday, March 16, there's an auction for the Pilsner Inn softball team with plants and other exotic things being offered. Danny Williams will be one of the auctioneers.

On Saturday, Mr. Transfer Leather, Terry Kelly (no, his first name is not Paul as I goofed two weeks ago), is having a Leather Jock Strap Contest at the Transfer for only \$6 (a beer bust),

a benefit for the Larkin Street Youth Center, from 1500 to 1800. That same evening, same place, the Barbary Coasters MC will be celebrating their 23rd anniversary, admission by invitation or

club overlay. Also, of course, it's the Mr. South of Market Contest at 2100.

Sunday, the S.F. GDI's are having their annual Spring Equinox



Mr. San Diego Leather Ed Winant will be a judge at the

Mr. South of Market Contest this Saturday night, March 18.

(Photo: Marcus)

Beer Bust at the S.F. Eagle. Their recording secretary Glenn Tomblin gets those press releases out! Sunday, too, Jim Leff is having his 10th annual Spring Open Studio Home Showing at 170 Duboce Ave. from 1300 to 1800. Call 431-7662 if you need more info. Jim's work is much admired and a must-see if not a must-buy occasion.

On Thursday, March 23, they'll be looking for Mr. May 1990 at the S.F. Eagle and the Fetish and Fantasy party will be at the End-Up beginning at 2030

hours for only \$8. It's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and there will be live demonstrations of safe/sane S&M by males and females. Dress as your fetish or your fantasy — prizes for best costumes — door prizes too!

After that, it's the third annual International Ms. Leather Contest on Saturday, March 25. International Mr. Leather Mike Pereyra will be here and so will Mr. Drummer Ron Zehel. I understand Rainbeau and Mistress Kathy will be performing at the

(Continued on next page)

The Transfer Leather Jock Strap Contest!

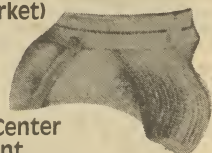
The Transfer (Church/Market)

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Terry Kelly, Mr. Transfer/Leather I to benefit

The Larkin Street Youth Center present

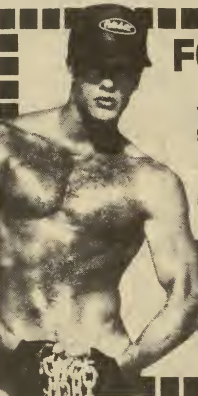
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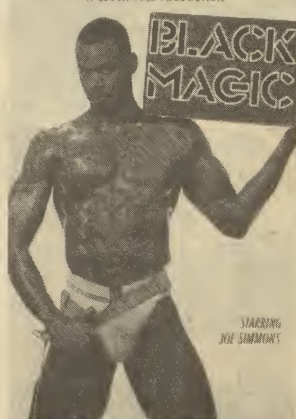
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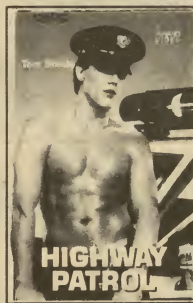
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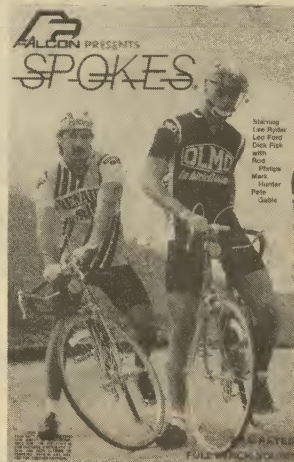


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Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Fetish and Fantasy party, too. It sounds flawless with Kathy as a Harem Top and Rainbeau as her disobedient slave! I'll give you the complete rundown on International Ms. Leather next week.

The Spoon Runs Away With the Dish

What is happening here? Now the word is out that the Galleria will not allow the Mr. Drummer Contest on its premises this coming fall!

What's wrong with these people? They get a lot of money renting their premises to gays for years and years and all of a sudden they can't deal with the leather community? The same thing happened to International Ms. Leather. I don't know where they're coming from, but money is money. It would be good to boycott some of these establishments that take gay money for years and then all of a sudden get high and mighty! Harrummmph and double harummmph!

Hey, you're not supposed to know this, but the Cable Car Awards and Show will be televis-

ed on Viacom Cable 6 on April 18 at 2000 hours. If you want to see how good you'll look on the tube beforehand, those wizards at Male Entertainment Network (M.E.N.) are offering the one-hour video (VHS or Beta) for only \$19.89 and that includes tax and postage! But there's a catch or two. (1) You must send a check or money order for this tape (no credit cards) and (2) you must include a statement with your order that you read about it in Mister Marcus' column. That's simple enough, isn't it? You can see how pretty or handsome you were when you were either presenting



Singer Jo-Carol will emcee the International Ms. Leather Contest next Saturday night at the San Francisco Hotel.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)

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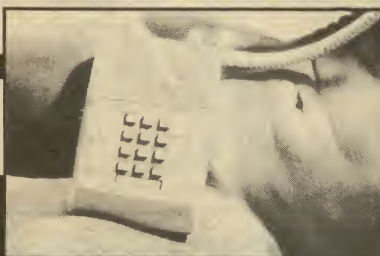
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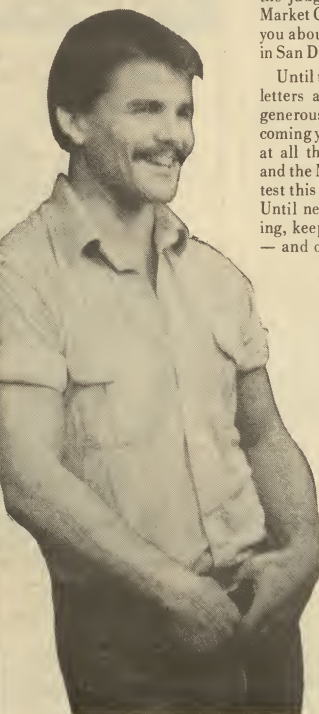
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BAY AREA REPORTER MARCH 16, 1989 PAGE 34



Brian, the new kid in town.

(Photo: Marcus)

an award or getting one before it airs on the tube. Send your check or money order to M.E.N., #1 United Nations Plaza, S.F., CA 94102. And don't forget to tell them whether you want it in VHS or Beta! Every award given out is on this tape, so no one was left out.

And what next? One of our former leather daddy's boys has come and gone again and ripped off several members of the community. Like P.T. Barnum said, "there's one born every minute"! If you were a victim, the aforementioned title holder is living somewhere in the California desert learning how to be a hair burner. This from a leather man?

Since spring is just around the corner, why not celebrate? They're having a Vernal Equinox dance party at Dreamland on Sunday, March 19 with Steve Fabus spinning and it's only \$5, and the White Party at Hero on Saturday, March 25 with a fab DJ from Probe in LA, and again on Sunday at Dreamland, March 26. Don't miss it!

Saturday, March 25, John Caldera, Mr. Bear Leather, is having a beer bust at the Bear with Jim Ward giving a piercing demo and Mad Dog giving a tattoo exhibition. It's only \$8 or \$7 with a canned food donation. There's \$500 worth of door prizes and it's all a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the S.F. Aids Foundation Food Bank.

And while scooping the news maven's, here's one you can jot down for 1990: The final negotiations are complete for Men Behind Bars V (the fifth edition) and will take place on President's Weekend (Feb. 16-19, 1990). There will, of course, be special recreations from the past four shows, there will be five performances, and it will be a benefit for the S.F. Band Foundation and various AIDS agencies. If you're interested in getting involved, bartender or not, contact Jim Cvitanich at the Pilsner Inn or Mark Abramson at The Special. Remember, you read it here first!

Mr. Leather of San Diego, Ed Winant, will be here to be one of the judges in the Mr. South of Market Contest, so I'll let him tell you about the Big Leather Week in San Diego March 30 to April 2.

Until then, thanks for all your letters and cards. Keep giving generously to all the fund raisers coming your way. Hope to see you at all the leather competitions and the Mr. South of Market contest this coming Saturday night. Until next week then, keep giving, keep loving, keep laughing — and do it in leather!

P.S.: The latest issue of In Touch magazine is out (#147) with loads of photos from last September's Mr. Drummer contest that you might want to see. Great photos by Satyr and a delightful story by Bob Stanford. Check it out.

Sweet Lips

The 20th Hanging Of Sweet Lips

The Watering Hole opens daily at 6 a.m. and you should drop in and have a drink with Wolfe, as he certainly knows how to wear leather.

The next Tavern Guild Meeting is at Alvin's at 688 Geary St. on Tuesday, March 21 at 1 p.m. Also at Alvin's Bar on Saturday, March 18, starting at 8 p.m. with music and food, Mr. Bunny 88-89 Larrie Merlin and Jesse invite you to attend Mr. Bunny's steppin' out and to help elect the new Mr. and Ms. Bunny 89-90, so join in the fun.

Michael Griffin has opened the all-new Carlene's restaurant and piano lounge on Polk Street featuring Mr. A. St. Claire on the keyboard. Drop in and give them a try.

Empress Pat Montclair attended the popular Cable Car Awards but Emperor Jerry Coletti didn't as he was down with the flu. As someone asked, "What's the matter? Couldn't he find a stretch ambulance?"

For an evening of fun, food and frolic on Saturday, March 18, from 7 p.m. till 1 a.m., the Gate Restaurant is having their Gala Grand Opening. It's a benefit for Every Penny Counts, the AIDS Emergency Fund, for a \$10 door charge, all the food on a grand buffet. Prizes and much more. So come in your favorite "Old West" costume. They have a unique "Penny Ice Bowl" to fill. Bring your pennies.

On Friday, March 17, happy St. Patty's Day, the popular Gilmore's on Hyde and California will be celebrating with corned beef and cabbage and some surprise entertainment, so don't miss it. Emperor Steven Rascher and Empress Lily Street are the official hosts for the fabulous dinner at Ginger's Too on April 1, starting off the "20th Hanging of Sweet Lips." For more info on the dinner (buffet style by Beverly Hopkins) call Ginger's Too at 543-3622. It is going to be a blast. Tickets also available from me and at the Kokpit.

Thank you Jim Bonko of the Community Thrift Store on Valencia Street for the fabulous new "Lips" radio. Yes, when you turn it on the lips actually move.

Brunch on Saturday, March 18 at the Kokpit in memory of Lily Lunchbucket for only a \$2 donation and the funds to benefit the Tenderloin Tessie holiday dinners with Mr. Lee-Ona and the one and only Pushy LaJames as hosts. Sounds like fun.

Ginger's Too is now featuring 99-cent cocktails, and on St. Patty's Day, "The" Irish dinner for only \$5.99 with 50-cent draft beer. Sounds like fun also.

The Mint is having a party, tonight, Thursday, March 16, from 8 till 10 for Bertha Butts as a candidate for Mr. Bunny to benefit the Tenderloin Tessie Easter Dinner with the great "Inga" as M.C.

Don't forget that Empress Maxine works noon till 7 weekdays at the Hob Nob on Geary and Leavenworth and is doing a great job.

Splatters on Mission between 1st and 2nd is still serving some of the best food in town and packing them in.

The Gate Restaurant on Pine and Jones serves a fantastic Sun-

day buffet brunch for only \$8.95 and they make the omelettes right in front of your eyes. Bob Golovich and his Stern had brunch last Sunday with Totie (New Belle fame) and his Russ and they raved about the food.

Be prepared for an influx of Portland visitors on the weekend of April 1 and 2 as there are over 40 wonderful people decending upon us. It'll be a mad, mad weekend.

Dolly Dale is still at the Polk Gulch and is having a birthday on Thursday, March 23, but won't say how old. Maybe I should call Agnes, your wonderful mother. I bet she'll tell me the true age.

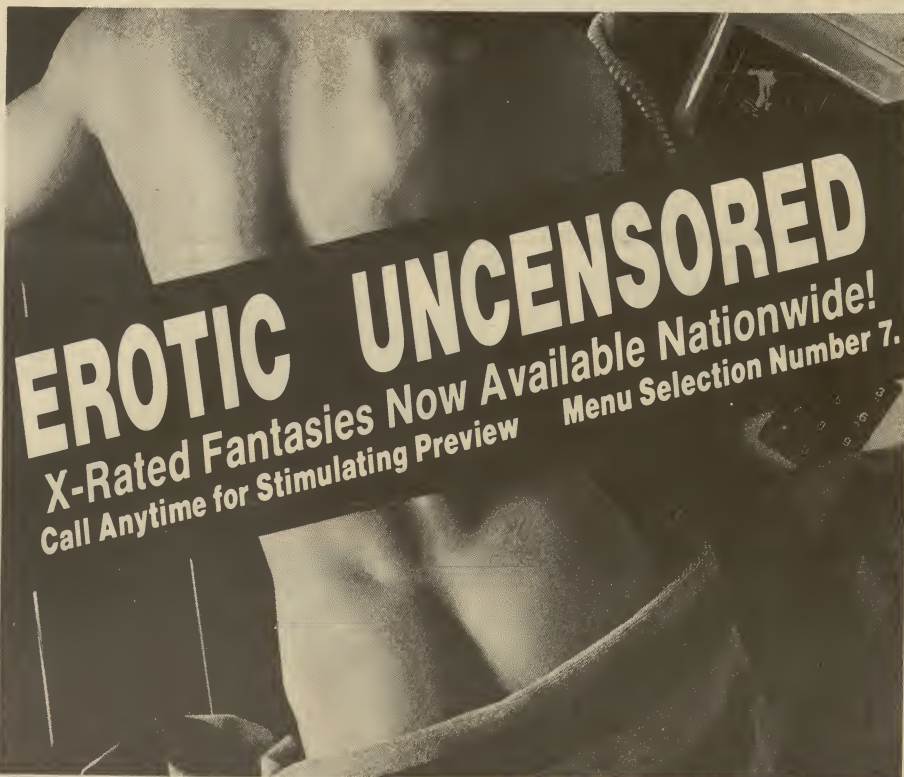
I hope that Denver is ready for our Emperor Jerry and Empress Pat for their Coronation on April 1. Bet you do us proud.

Had a great meal at Chez Mollet with Luscious Lorelei recently and Lenny was in rare form. Hi, Edward!



April Fool?

Steve Hammond, blond, six foot plus porn star of "Stryker Force" and "Touch Me," will appear on stage at the Nob Hill Cinema one day only, April 1, at 3 and 9 p.m.



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Myke Reilly and Charley Brown of Voice Farm will perform at "From the Heart," a benefit for the NGRA.

From The Heart

NGRA To Honor Caregivers; Hopes To Get Boost For Defense Fund

by Will Snyder

There are many reasons you may want to find yourself at the Galleria Design Center for "From The Heart" on the evening of Saturday, March 25. For one, you would have a chance to honor a select group of individuals who have helped provide support for people with AIDS. Another reason is that you can dance your tush off to the music of Voice Farm, one of the most exciting show bands in the

Bay Area, as well as the recorded music of Castro Station disc jockey Mark Watkins.

And another reason is that if you find yourself paying \$125 for a cocktail reception or \$20 for the dance party later, you'll be giving badly-needed money to National Gay Rights Advocates' Legal Defense Fund. That could come in handy some day if your rights are on the line.

"From The Heart" should be a night with a theme so familiar to the lesbian and gay community in the 1980s: people helping people. The proof is in the pudding, the pudding in this case being the group of people NGRA has chosen to honor this year:

- Jim and Joanna Luque, parents who coordinate a Thanksgiving Day dinner for over 1,000 people with AIDS;
- Brad Cochran, an emotional support volunteer with Shanti Project since 1982;
- Lynne Raider, who delivers Project Open Hand meals and helps in fundraising;
- Irene Smith and the Volunteers of Service Through Touch, which provides massages to people with AIDS;
- Ann Fraser, the host of Channel 5's *People Are Talking* show, for making significant contributions to AIDS education, and
- Donald Knutson and Richard Rouillard, the founders of National Gay Rights Advocates.

When the plaques have been given out, it'll be time to dance.

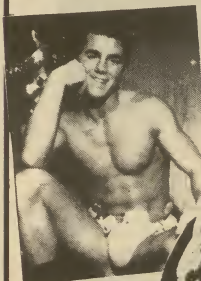
Voice Farm should have the joint jumpin'. Charley Brown and Myke Reilly make up Voice Farm and their music has been described as "techno-pop, highly synthesized and electronic." Voice Farm has accompaniment in the form of an eight-person dance group called Oblong Rhonda. According to people who saw Voice Farm and Oblong Rhonda at a recent concert at the I-Beam, the combination of Voice Farm's synchronized, electronic music and the exciting choreography of Oblong Rhonda was so exciting that patrons just had to get engulfed in high-charged dancing.

But remember, too, when you're observing awards ceremonies on March 25 or boogying later on that night, your money is going to NGRA. That's the group you see going from coast to coast, fighting for gay men and lesbians on the job or in the home.

Comedienne Sandra Bernhard will be Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening's festivities while San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos and actress Andrea Marcovici will act as honorary chairs. A total of 1,000 AIDS support volunteers will be honored. The entire dance has been underwritten by a grant from Carillon Importers and Absolut Vodka.

Tickets for the cocktail reception are available by calling 986-3319. Tickets for the dance party are available at all Headlines stores, GW Finley and All-American Boy.

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BUCKSHOT'S first all leather video — and it's hot! Spectacular physique star TOM LEE sizzles with electric sex in "HIGH TENSION." The body beautiful has never looked better! Introducing super-hung ED HORST in "BAD ATTITUDE" — this is a raunchy, get down, leather-wrapped movie he makes exciting! The longest section in THE LEATHER REPORT is "FOG BOUND" starring two popular ministers of leather, MARK ALEXANDER and JOE FALCO. Their give and take will have you groping and hard! Warning: this video is fully loaded and you might get off at any time!



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S.F. Fndtn Seeks Award Nominees

The San Francisco Foundation will continue to accept nominations through March 31 for the 27th Annual San Francisco Foundation Award. The \$1,000 award honors an individual who has an awareness of a community problem involving conflicting interests, and who has demonstrated courageous or effective leadership in bringing about mutual understanding and cooperation.

Nominees are sought from the five Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and/or San Mateo.

The Foundation's Awards Committee will select a recipient from among the nominations submitted by March 31. For nomination forms or more information, call The San Francisco Foundation's Awards Office at 543-0223.

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Queen

(Continued from page 30)

abridge the Act Two opening, and cut entirely the gratuitous musical number "Her Shadow Falls." The muscular gymnastics of the play's only male, the nature god (Rene Collins), are designed to distract from the planned overkill of Elizabeth Summer's vocal performance here. Just kill it.

Getting to the meat of Gate Four, "Amazon Rising From the Dust," would help us through the excessive remainder of Act Two. As to "Amazon Rising From the Dust": A bravura performance of horrific beauty by Kristina Peterson. Also, the evening's most memorable musical number is placed within this scene, the almost hummable "As For What We Do With Horses."

Theatre Rhino is to be applauded for bringing Grahn's vision to the stage—albeit one

desperately in need of a pruning. Modern religion is built on the bones of ancient myth, and Grahn's play in poetry is littered with skeletons from both. The body built on this frame makes for mesmerizing performance opportunities, and an often discomforting glimpse into the lesbian psyche. However, while the extraordinarily high production values do much to recommend this piece to any audience, *Swords* is often mired in its own verbose beauty. Grahn has gone back to the roots, and given us theatre as ceremonial rite. However, fascinating though it may be, it is a service you want to cut out on somewhere after communion. ▼

Queen of Swords
Theatre Rhinoceros
2926 16th St., S.E.
Wed-Sun, 8 p.m.;
Sun mats on Mar. 26, Apr. 2, 9 at 3 p.m.

Gatewood

(Continued from page 29)

May. He eagerly declares himself, "the largest producer and distributor of unusual documentary videos, and that includes the big boys." Gatewood appears to be in on the first wave of a medium that is changing all the rules.

There could be debate as to whether these videos are for everyone. You could say that Gatewood lives on that line between inspired genius and crazed madness. Just listen to his tao or experience as put forth in *Forbidden Photographs*.

"We are out of control. We are jumping up and down, we are grabbing each other. We are dancing a dance of pure lust.

There is no past here, no future in this sensory overkill—only release from this monstrous city, only the sweet golden NOW..."

As for the future, Gatewood, like most artists, is always looking for kindred souls who have a passion for his vision and a desire to share in it. He is making a sequel to *Wierd San Francisco* called *Shocking San Francisco*. "I'm looking for any unusual individuals who have something special to show and tell," he says.

He is always interested in, "tattooing and piercing and any kind of rites, rituals, ceremonies or secret societies. Also anything that is tribal or of a cult nature, anything done in secret or in private, and anything underground or wierd." You are saying, "not me," but maybe you should take a second look in the mirror.

A reception will be held after the showing, and after a question and answer session, Gatewood says he plans a party. Of course, with this man, that could mean anything. He invites the community to come and see his videos, meet him and party.

Anyone interested in contacting Charles Gatewood can write him at POB 410052, SF, CA 94141. Catalogs of Flash Production titles are available for \$1. And his current videos *Wierd San Francisco* and *Wierd Amsterdam* are available for \$50 each. ▼

Lesbians In TV Drama

HeartBeat, an ABC drama set in a women's medical center, was a right-wing target for having introduced the first continuing lesbian character to network TV. That character, Marilyn, played by actress Gail Strickland, will be featured in the show's main storyline on Thursday, March 23.

Guest star Samantha Eggar plays an old friend of Marilyn's who is now terminally ill. The producers of the show report that

they are "especially proud" of this episode.

Since *HeartBeat* has already been cancelled by the network, it may be a long time before there's another chance to see this kind of relationship explored. If you particularly like the depictions, you might want to phone the local ABC affiliate at 954-7777 to let them know you want to see more gays and lesbians intelligently portrayed on network TV. ▼

SF Gay Men's Chorus At Herbst This Weekend

A certain song could be known as a composer's "signature piece," that which is easily identified as one of the artist's memorable works. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus will present an evening of these classical and pops standards, "Signature Show," Saturday and Sunday, March 18-19, at 8 p.m., in San Francisco's Herbst Theatre.

Featuring appearances by Bay Area soloists Anna Schenk-Hughes and Karen Tesitor, the concert will include popular

pieces by Sondheim, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Bernstein, Gershwin, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, and Jule Styne. Classical and operetta works by Strauss, Romberg, Verdi, Mozart and Donizetti will also be highlighted.

Tickets for the concerts, priced at \$10, \$12, \$15 and \$25, are available at the Herbst box office, STBS and Word Processing Services of San Francisco, 2354 Market at Castro, or by calling 552-3656. ▼

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People

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Bondage & TT. 665-4825 E11

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Shy, healthy GWM 5'10", 130, 37 seeks: top man, 21-35 (esp. Latins) for dining, theater, day trips & mel (Safe sex only!) Send photo to: Box 410-B, 1033 Solano, Albany, 94706. E11

BOTTOM SEEKS TOP

GWM 40 6'2" 175#, attractive, caring, responsible, HIV-, Terry, 835-8211. E11

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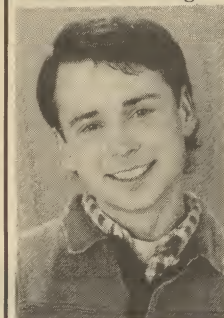
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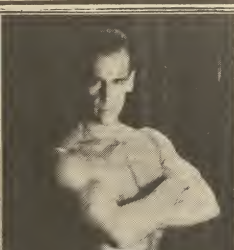
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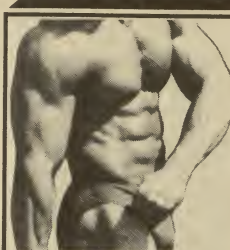
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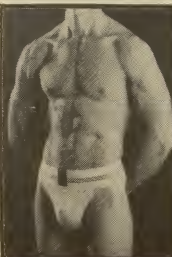
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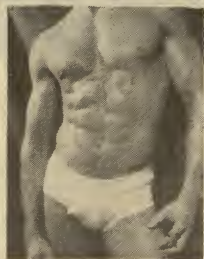
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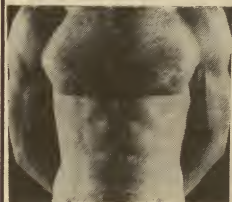
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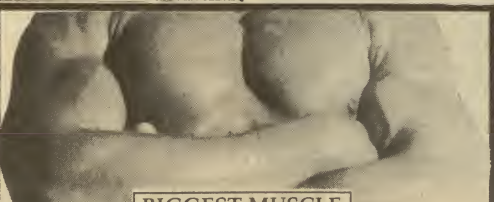
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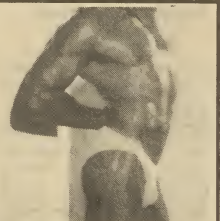
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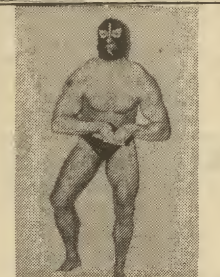
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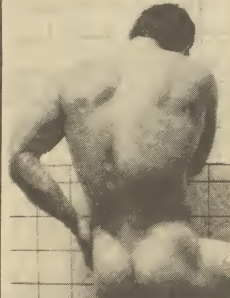
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

BOWLING

Prince, Yesowitch Cop Keglers' Cable Car Awards

by Richard McPherson

Arne Prince and Elizabeth Yesowitch were selected as the recipients of the Sportsman of the Year in Bowling award in the recent Cable Car Awards and Show.

Prince has been a big name in the news over the past couple of years for his outstanding scoring achievements in the Wednesday Tavern Guild League, including 751 and 748 series. His average, in the upper 190 range, ranks him as one of the top bowlers at Park Bowl.

These factors, along with his fine bowling style, aided in his selection as a role model of athletic excellence in the most popular of gay sports in the city.

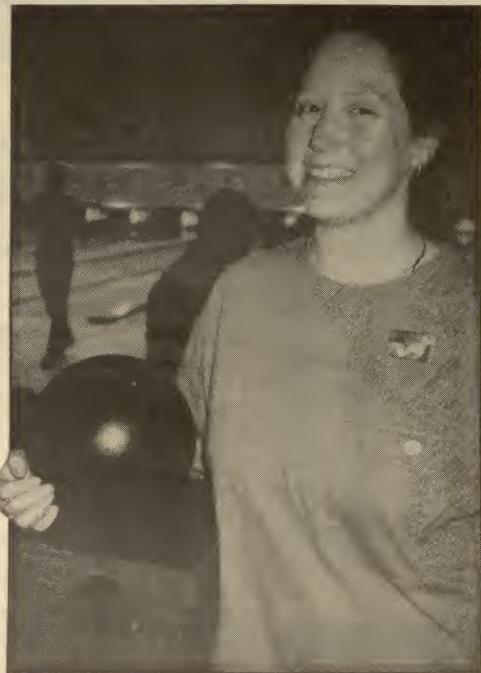
Of the three nominees in the women's category, it was a straight woman who won the award for the bowling sportswoman of the year for her support and participation in gay and lesbian leagues. Elizabeth Yesowitch, who gave birth to her first baby girl only a couple of months ago, is an active member of the S.F. Women's Business League and the Monday TGL at Park Bowl, as well as a participant and volunteer in local gay tournaments and fundraisers. Yesowitch has also been an up and coming bowler, her average jumping from 154 last year, to the upper 160s in the SFWBL.

Elizabeth says she bowls in the predominately lesbian league for the competitive atmosphere, and enjoys the camaraderie of gay and lesbian people.



Arne Prince.

(Photo: Darlene/PhotoGraphics)



Elizabeth Yesowitch, Cable Car Award Recipient

(Photo: R. McPherson)

"I was really surprised that I was nominated," she said, "and I didn't think I would win since the other nominees were Sara (Lewinstein) and Virginia (Brusco)."

It was exciting enough for Yesowitch to experience her first Cable Car Awards show, and, she said, it was a real thrill for her to stand on the stage among all the winners in the other sports categories. A reaction which was not apparent due to her quiet demeanor. It was Marti Taylor, one of her best bowling buddies, who jumped out of her seat with excitement when her name was announced.

"I was so happy that she won ... she really deserved the award," said Taylor.

Two Wednesday TGL bowlers also won awards in other categories. Michael Bulawit won the prestigious award for Outstanding Contribution to Athletics, an award presented to the person who works to promote gay sports in San Francisco. (Congratulations, too, to Mal Garcia, gay bowling promoter, on his nomination in this same category.) And, Jerry Pepper won the award for Outstanding Sportsman of the Year in Softball.

J.C. Halstead was number one in the Tavern Guild Leagues (TGL) at Park Bowl, again, this time shooting a 674 series in the Thursday TGL on March 2. Halstead, whose average has jumped up to 194 in that league shot games of 207, 212 and 255. Next in line was Frank Rauch who shot a 638 in the Wednesday TGL. Bowling for Mint Condi-

tion, Rauch, a 176 average, shot games of 190, 236 and 212. All this after a 231 earlier in the week in the Monday TGL. Also in the Wednesday TGL, Greg Bickel, a 174 average, shot a very consistent 226, 212, 198/636 score.

David Arnold was another 600+ shooter, with 244/627 in the TG Trios followed by Tim Mulvenon (187) 224/600.

Bowlers shooting 215+ games the week of Feb. 27 to March 2 at Park Bowl: Dave Lilly (188) 235; Buddy Hunt (157) 233; Steve Szasz (161) 227; Whirl Gray (172) 224; Jeff Hettmansperger (186) 223; Roger Spencer (163) 218; Adrian Stenson (163) 216; Tom Sipple (178) 216; J.J. Johnson (154) 214.

Honorable Mention (160 average and under): Denis Geofrey (157) 211; Jeff Ingels (149) 203; Michael McPherson (151) 203; Tony Palermo (152) 202; Derek Ow (157) 200; Ken Auletta (141) 200.

Special congrats to S.F. Eagle groupies Ernie Viola and John Bondie on their 200 games in the Wednesday TGL. Viola, a 148 average, had a hot 214 game to Bondie's (148) 203.

Meri Hayos (167 average) was the top shooter in the S.F. Women's Business League on March 5 with a 214/595 effort. Tammy Cunningham, a 114 average, wowed them all in that league with an even 200 game. Nice shooting, Tammy. Bernice Straub (167) had a 213; Donna Williams (160) 203 and Cathy Patterson (164) 200.

(Continued on next page)

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Bowling

(Continued from previous page)

In the Community Leagues at Japantown Bowl the week of Feb. 26 to March 5, Bruce Gresham (174 average) was high with a 234 game, followed by Roger Spencer (170) with a 233 (looks like you've found your line, eh Rog?). Tom Sherck (177) had a 226 and Phil Whitaker (178) a 225.

Other bowlers shooting 210+ at JTown: David Arnold (201) 223; David Kriete (153) 218; Hunter Bauman (182) 215; Jerome Lofton (162) 213 and 210; John Galaznik (162) 211 and 203.

Special congrats, also, to Matt Gini, a 152 average in the Hawaii Vacation League on two great

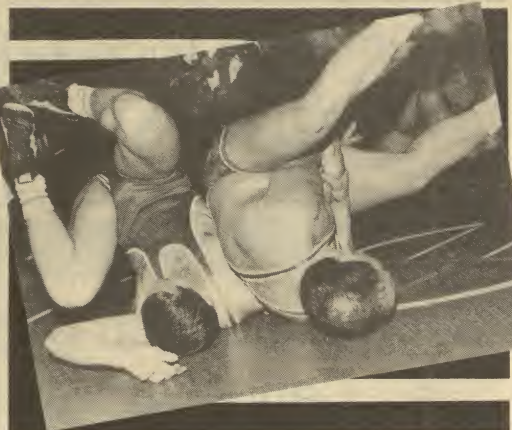
over-average achievements. Bowling for the Easy Leis, Matt started off the evening with a 220 and finished it with a 210. Bob Dos Santos (154) had a 201.

Will there be a SNFTIT '89? The S.F. No Tap Invitational Tournament, the area's largest annual gay/lesbian bowling event is, as of this moment, without an organizer. No one has stepped forward to offer to run the tournament which normally takes place in November. Last year's co-chairs, Jeff Ingels and Jackie Weil, did their part to produce a successful tournament last year, and would be happy to brief anyone interested in taking on the task. Any takers? There is still time to get it together, and the participants always have a bang-up time. Call Jeff if you want to talk it over: 553-8856.

You know, bowling folks, we seem to have a participatory problem in our midst. The numbers of gay/lesbian bowlers is on the increase in the city, but the numbers of participants in tournaments and fundraisers and especially organizers for events and tournaments is on the decrease. Bowlers did not turn out for last November's SNFTIT, the Team S.F. bowl-a-thon or the recent BEAR fundraiser. Last Saturday's Tri-City Tournament was way down from past years.

It's all for our enjoyment and benefit. If we don't join it it could all dry up. Think about it.

Apologies to Darrel Haven on the typo in last week's column which listed his name as Have. When someone bowls a 250+ game, we've just got to get the name right.



The Golden Gate Wrestling Club preparing for Gay Games III.

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GGWC Looks To The Future With New Practice Schedule

The Golden Gate Wrestling Club announced recently that it has changed its practice schedule. The new time and location is on every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 3350 20th Street (cross street is Shotwell). As always, all new and experienced wrestlers are welcome. Please contact Gary France at 558-9195 or Gene Dermody at 821-2991 for more information.

GGWC is gearing up for a very busy year in preparation for participation in Gay Games III in Vancouver. It will be joining the Bay Area Wrestling Association this year. This will broaden the possibilities for competition, as well as allowing the club to participate in BAWA coaching clinics, tournaments, and practices. The GGWC intends to hold several fundraisers during the next 18 months. A team will be sent to competitions in Phoenix,

Los Angeles and Chicago. And there will be a repeat of the GGWC's successful invitational tournament in October.

To increase our preparedness for Gay Games III, practices will be changed to a more structured format. This will greatly benefit both experienced wrestlers and the newcomers by emphasizing physical fitness, endurance, diet and increasing technique.

Golden Gate Wrestling Club is seeking corporate sponsors. The GGWC plans to send 20-30 wrestlers to Gay Games III in 1990. It hopes to help meet the expenses of training and transporting these athletes with donations from the business community. Any business or organization interested in supporting the efforts of GGWC to send a team to Gay Games III should contact either France or Dermody at the above numbers. ▼

Beware the Interdivisionals

by Lauren Ward

By design, the first half of the San Francisco Pool Association's spring season was like a capricious puppy which cavorted clumsily and occasionally inflicted a painful nip. In the second half of the season, the puppy matures and feasts on the personal records of players and teams.

The mechanism producing this metamorphosis is the scheduling design by which a random draw produces a divisional round-robin in the season's first half. Matchups are purely "luck of the draw." Second half action features equally ranked teams from each division playing each other in matches that provide weekly playoff previews. The resulting competitive crunch reshuffles the league's top individual list weekly and tightens up the divisional races with dramatic flair.

The lower ranked teams are benefitted by being given a better shot at victory with matches against their peers, while the strong player on a weak team can inflate their personal scores.

Despite the best intentions of the schedule's architects, the current division leaders are most likely to find themselves as Divi-

sion Champions at season's end, perhaps by slightly smaller margins. Look for the Scandalous Chaos, Cinch Killer Beez, Deluxe Ducks and Overpassers to win their respective divisions.

The individual tournament season is nearly upon us and many players are keeping their instincts sharp at regular open weekly tournaments around town.

Monday nights at the Bear are something of a tradition as they are the senior members of the tournament circuit. Play alternates weekly between 8-ball and 9-ball with a \$3 entry. The Cinch holds a Wednesday night event with a \$5 entry. It's best to check in by 7 p.m. to make the 16-player fields. On Sunday afternoons, Liz Norko hosts the Maud's 8-ball contest. The 16-player field has lately been filling up by 4:30 p.m. for a 5 p.m. start. Also a \$3 entry, single-elimination event. Tony Rios copped the \$40 top prize last week.

Upcoming league tournies include the Captain's Tournament, March 28, and the Annual 8-Ball Championship qualifier series, beginning March 30. Dial JOE-POOL for SFPA information. ▼

FrontRunners Look To The Future



SF FrontRunners practicing their centipede formation for the Bay to Breakers. (Photo: S. Savage)

by Rick Thoman

The San Francisco FrontRunners are taking a break and catching their breaths. But not for long.

After having participated in the world's third largest marathon, the FrontRunners are busy finalizing plans that will keep the group busy through the spring and into the summer.

Ten FrontRunners competed with 22,330 other runners in the arduous City of Los Angeles Marathon on March 4. With runners from all 50 states and at least 97 other nations, the San Francisco runners dealt with a large field of runners. They also had to deal with a blistering sun and temperatures which stayed in the 80s during the entire race.

"Conditions were less than ideal for running a marathon," said Mike Mahoney, a San Francisco FrontRunner who finished with a time of four hours, one minute and 39 seconds.

The best time for the locals was Tom Pait's 3:20.42. Other San Francisco times included Bob Puerzer, 3:33.33; Ric Munos, 3:38.0; Terry Baransy, 3:40.5; David Studach, 3:44.30; Dennis Hanna, 3:45.0; Fred Hulsizer, 3:50.4; David Alman, 3:55.22 and Sara MacDwyer, 4:06.0.

An example of the sun's toll on the field of runners was the marathon's early leader, Tanzania's Gidamis Shahanga. After taking the lead just four miles into the race, he appeared to be enroute to an easy victory, but instead he wilted under the humid conditions late in the race and finally stopped running with only 1½ miles to go. At that point he was overtaken by Canada's Art Boileau, who wound up winning in a time of 2:13.1, followed by Pedro Ortiz of Colombia at 2:13.28, and Ernest Tiela of Lesotho in third at 2:14.3. Shahanga regained his stride to

finish fourth in 2:15.32.

Eighteen other San Francisco FrontRunners joined forces with the LA FrontRunners to man the water station at mile 10 of the marathon. They were part of over 10,000 volunteers used to support the race, and in the 80 degree heat provided necessary and welcome relief to rapidly dehydrating runners.

Two five-man teams of FrontRunners plan on returning to Los Angeles on April 9 to be a part of the annual Jimmy Stewart Marathon relays. Contested at Los Angeles' Griffith Park, each member of the team runs 5.1 miles. Those already lined up to go for San Francisco include Mahoney, Alman and Peter Trevino.

On April 21, the FrontRunners will attend a national FrontRunners conference in Chicago to discuss plans of the various U.S. cities for preparations for Gay Games III. SF FrontRunners president Tim Cook believes the forum will provide an important opportunity to share varying strategies that will hopefully provide maximum participation at the Vancouver 1990 Gay Games.

The FrontRunners are completing the final details on the third annual AIDS Pledge Run which begins June 1. This 30-day running program has netted over \$40,000 in previous years and organizers are hoping to better that amount with expanded participation this year. Those participating obtain sponsors for each mile they anticipate running during the month of June. Pledge runners then record their mileage in an official runner's log and all money collected at the end of the month goes directly to the AIDS organization that the runner has selected. Registration packets are already available by sending a \$5 entry fee (payable to AIDS Pledge Run) to AIDS Pledge Run, 1550 California St., Suite 6L200, San Francisco, CA 94109.

The San Francisco FrontRunners continue to hold morning runs at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park every Saturday at 10 a.m. and Sunday runs at various locations throughout the city. Although the group is basically non-competitive, there is a group of runners who enjoy participating in competitive events such as the City of Los Angeles Marathon.

The FrontRunners are once again planning to have a centipede entry in the Bay-to-Breakers run in May and are hopeful that plans for a San Francisco Marathon will be approved for that event to take place in July. Other projects for 1989 include this year's annual Gay Run in Golden Gate Park and Gay Sports Day on Angel Island. Some members are also meeting with the San Francisco Track and Field Club in preparation for competing in the long-distance track events for San Francisco at the 1990 Gay Games.

For more information regarding the San Francisco FrontRunners, call Tim Cook at 456-6865. ▼

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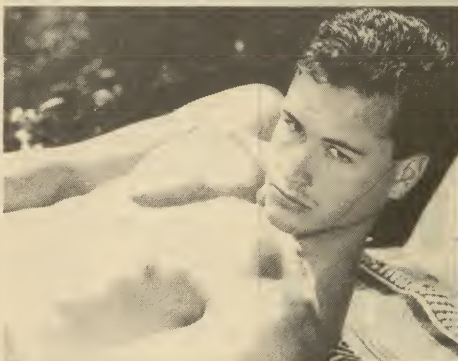
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976-BODS

GSL Plans 'Bowl-Off'

Before the softball games start, get involved with the annual Gay Softball League Bowl-Off on Sunday, March 19, at 11:30 a.m. at Park Bowl on Haight St. Please contact Jeff Baker for time slots at 626-6149.

Softball's opening day is scheduled for Sunday, April 2, at Lang Field. Starting at 11 a.m. Amelia's will play The Galleon Women and at 2 p.m. Uncle Bert's Bandits will play the Off-Castro Street Cleaners Pendulum. Help us open the season with a great start. Be there! ▼

HRCF Seeks Youths For Board Interns

The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) is seeking applications from young adults for its board of directors as part of the new HRCF Young Leaders Internship Program.

Under the internship program, up to two young adults—ages 19 to 25—will serve a one-year internship on the 25-member HRCF board. One female and one male intern will be selected. The program will be implemented by this summer.

The young adult interns will have the same rights and responsibilities as other board members, including full voting rights. Responsibilities of the interns will include networking and fundraising to college and universities and other young adult communities. Interns will also participate in key political and legislative projects involving the board of the nation's largest gay and lesbian and AIDS politi-

cal action committee and lobbying group.

Intern applicants must submit to HRCF a typewritten resume and a two-to-three page biographical summary. Applicants will be reviewed by the HRCF Intern Committee. Interviews will be required of all finalists. Consideration will be given to the applicant's contributions to the gay and lesbian community, political expertise and contacts, leadership potential and fund raising capabilities.

Interns need not be active college students, but should have close ties to the academic community.

Applications should be sent to HRCF Board Intern Program, 1012 14th St. NW, Suite 607, Washington, D.C., 20005, by April 19. Call (202) 628-4160 for more information. Notification of selection will be held by May 10.

Workshops Offered In Health

The San Francisco AIDS Alternative Healing Project is accepting applications for their 12-week Comprehensive Program that starts April 1.

The program includes clinical direction in using natural and holistic therapies for all stages of HIV infection, as well as acupuncture, shiatsu massage, individual and group psychotherapy, chiropractic medicine, imagery and visualization training, and nutritional consultation and cooking classes. All participants

receive daily supplements.

Our sixth program will focus on educating people to manage their health situation, and is intended as a supplement or alternative to both holistic and Western medical approaches.

All applicants interested are asked to come to one of several orientation meetings. Orientations will be held on: Friday, March 17 (7-9 p.m.); Thursday, March 30 (8-10 p.m.). Please call 558-9292 for more information.

City College Extension Includes Gay/Lesbian Classes

The second group of mini classes at the San Francisco Community College Castro/Valencia Complex begins the week of March 27.

On Tuesday, March 28, Basic Residential Maintenance (tools and how to use them) begins under Oakland contractor Leann Gustofson. The same night a nine-week class, The Alcoholic Person, will be offered by addiction specialist, Genevieve Howe.

Accountant Robin Whipple starts up a Small Business Book-keeping class Wednesday. Also that night, Gay Male Lifestyles: Options for the 1990s will begin, under the direction of Henry Mach.

Chris Anderegg will offer a Self-Defense class on Thursday night.

All of the classes are free, non-credit, and begin at 6:30 p.m. They are held at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street (between 16th and 17th Streets).

The complete Fall 1989 Semester gets under way in mid-August with some 45 City College credit courses and 15 mini classes. This year for the first time a community service lecture series will be presented in the fall. The topic selected is The Gay Imagination and Creativity, from Proust to Cole Porter to Perry Ellis.

The Castro/Valencia Complex with its three-site campus was designed initially as an outreach to the city's Gay/Lesbian community. For more information call 647-4729.

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES

Team Standings

SUNDAY RENO LEAGUE (Through March 5)

	W	L
1. Pin Up Boys	4	0
2. Tough Nuts	4	0
3. Punched N Judy	4	0
4. Strike Force	4	0
5. Pin Action	3	1
6. High Five	3	1
7. Alley Cats	3	1
8. Domestic Goddesses	3	1
9. Gambi N Wrecks	1	3
10. Xtra Specials	1	3
11. Lust (2)	1	3
12. Flat Seals	0	4
13. Four Aces (1)	0	4
14. Webz	0	4
15. Out on a Limb	0	4
16. Condemnation	0	4

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Through Feb. 28)

	W	L
1. Gilmore's	19	9
2. Tender Vittles	17	11
3. Beginner's Luck	17	11
4. Sleazy Pick-Ups	17	11
5. Hot Rollers	17	11
6. "Baby Dolls"	15½	12½
7. Swaying Palms	15	13
8. 976-BOWL	15	13
9. Thundergutters	15	13
10. Lois Lanes 2	15	13
11. Bowl for Husbands	14½	13½
12. The Bowlerinas	14	14
13. Island Snow	14	14
14. Dignity/Holy Bowlers	13½	14½
15. Serenity Sisters	13	15
16. Town & Country	12	16
17. Easy Pickups	12	16
18. Guttersnipes	9½	18½
19. Men Behind Balls	8	20
20. Juan's Deadwood	7	21

(It is the responsibility of the bowling establishment to supply the B.A.R. with league standing sheets.)

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Through March 1)

	W	L
1. Hana N R Sisters	21	7
2. Unique Cust. Framers	20½	11½
3. Your Worst Nightmare	20	12
4. Ball Spinners	20	12
5. Names Project Quilters	19½	12½
6. Metro	19	13
7. 14-Karat Jewels	17½	14½
8. AIDS Emergency Fund	16	16
9. Missing Persons (1)	15½	12½
10. Shanti Queens/Day	14½	17½
11. Spare Me	13	19
12. Bobby Rays Ribs	12	20
13. Alvins Bears	12	20
14. Rawhide Balls in Hand	11	21
15. Dead Yuppies	10½	21½
16. Split Sisters	10	22

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE (Through March 2)

	W	L
1. Hot 'N' Hunky	14	6
2. Uncle Bert's	11	9
3. Old Rick's	11	9
4. Pendulum	11	9
5. Go Ahead!	9	7
6. Team 10	9	3
7. Team 8	8	12
8. Hob Nob	8	12
9. Cafe Francisco	8	12
10. Galleon	7	13

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE (Through March 3)

	W	L
1. Tidy Bowlers	16	8
2. The Four Tops	15	9
3. Lei Overs	14	10
4. Easy Leis	13	7
5. The Eruptions (1)	11	9
6. Team Aie Bunnies	10	14
7. Hono Lulus	10	14
8. Dejour Poi Boys (1)	10	10
9. Hula Harlots	9	11
10. Mahulani's	7	13
11. Corwin Club	7	13
12. Hi Bound	2	6

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD LEAGUES

MONDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE (Through Feb. 27)

	W	L
1. Pilsner Pinnguins	61½	18½
2. Bassett Hounds	53	27
3. Publio Rolo's	51½	28½
4. All American Trophy	49	31
5. Urasis Dragon	47	33
6. The Barking Lot	47	33
7. Rolo's	46½	33½
8. Frantic Finishers	45½	34½
9. Welcome Home	45	35
10. Castro Station	45	35
11. S.F. Gay Band	44½	35½
12. Park Bowl	42	38
13. Sheela Wood HFC	40½	39½
14. Pet Stop Cocktails	39	41
15. Pend. White Trash	38	42
16. Tom Clark Painting	33½	42½
17. Always Tan	31½	44½
18. Rawhide II	31	49
19. Allgood and Assoc.	30	50
20. Pendulum	29½	50½
21. Spare-Us	20½	59½
22. Team 22	0	80

THURSDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE (Through March 2)

	W	L
1. Play With It Ltd.	57	19
2. S.F. Eagle	49	27
3. Mint Condition	47	29
4. Together Again	47	29
5. Park Bowl	45½	30½
6. Wild Balls	43	33
7. Ma's Kids	42	34
8. Sassy	41½	34½
9. DustBusterz	40	36
10. Hot Trax	39	37
11. Trax	38	38
12. Bears Boys	35	41
13. Super Star Video	34	42
14. U. Bert's Screwballs	34	42
15. Polk Rendez. Ones	33½	42½
16. Inches	33	39
17. Rendezvous Too	32	44
18. 501 Blues	28	48
19. Stars & Strikes	22½	53½
20. Team 20	0	72

WEDNESDAY TAVERN GUILD LEAGUE (Through March 1)

	W	L
1. Park Bowl	63	21
2. Pendulum	55½	28½
3. Play With It Again	54	30
4. Leflovers	52	32
5. Pilsner I	52	32
6. Bow-K	50	34
7. Rams & Ewe	48½	35½
8. Pilsner Men/Balls	48	36
9. S.F. Eagle	47½	36½
10. Pilsner Quackers	46½	37½
11. Galleon Sharks	46½	37½
12. Play With It Ltd.	44½	39½
13. Pilsner Pickups	44	40
14. Godfather Serv. Fund	41	43
15. Evans Pacific	40½	43½
16. 9 Eyes Only	34½	49½
17. Pendulum Pandas	34	50
18. Gutter Girls	34	50
19. Unbearable Bottoms	33	51
20. The Bear Tops	25	59
21. The Helen Beds	3	73
22. Team 22	0	76

SAN FRANCISCO WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE (Through March 5)

	W	L
1. Berkeley Women's	42	22
2. Ink Blots	41	23
3. Express Comp. Supp.	40	24
4. Awards by Chris	38	26
5. Park Bowl	34½	29½
6. Maud's Squad	33½	30½
7. Sidney's Pinheads	32	32
8. Bad Girls	32	32
9. Bowldykes	32	32
10. F. Darling Tax Serv	32	32
11. Cassidy's Cabinettes	30½	33½
12. Artemis	30	34
13. Olive Oils	28½	35½
14. Just Enough	28	36
15. Amelia's	28	36

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
Notice is hereby given that LEONARDO S. BACCI, IOLE L. BACCI, ROBERT R. BACCI, RENATO MEL, ANGELA L. MEL, FRANK FAIRCHILD, JULIA FAIRCHILD, STEVE GARIBALDI, MARY GARIBALDI, and DOROTHE WILLIAMSON, heretofore doing business under the fictitious firm name of APT INVESTORS, at 5844 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94121-2091, City and County of San Francisco, State of California, did dissolve the said limited partnership by written consent of all general partners and a majority in interest of the limited partners. The partnership was dissolved effective December 31, 1988.

The Certificate of Limited Partnership for said APT INVESTORS was recorded as Document V 22587 at Book 8685, Page 544, on October 5, 1972 in the Office of the Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California.
Dated at San Francisco, California on Feb. 8, 1989.
Limited partners signed by Leonardo S. Bacci, Attorney in Fact, for limited partners. 3/16.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business name:
APT INVESTORS
at 5844 Geary Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94121.

This business was conducted by a limited partnership. The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in San Francisco County on December 4, 1987. Registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed name on October 2, 1972. The full name and address of registrant is: Leonardo S. Bacci, 2485 Butternut Drive, Hillsborough, CA 94010.
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the date indicated by the file stamp above.

CERTIFICATION
I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original on file in my office.
3/16 3/23 3/30 4/6

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Unf. studio So. of Market W/W carpet, Laundry, Cable. No pets. \$475 mo. 863-2731. E11

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Bernal Heights. Garden studio in brown shingle bungalow. Carpet. Drapes. Deck. City view. Quiet. No pets. \$475. 826-5885. E12

Furnished Victorian, Lower Pac. Hgts., to share w/professional G/M, quiet, no smoking, private room, W/D, DW, \$500+ util. 922-6969. E12

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GM, 40 needs GM or GF to rent deluxe condo, 370 Church, I use as 2nd home when in S.F. I use 1 bdrm & 1/2 bath only; you get rest of condo unfurnished; \$650 mo., 1st/last mo. \$200 sec./clng dep; mod kitch w/DW, lg deck, own W/D; hot tub, sauna; get own phone; no pets, no pking. Ref. req. Call Keal 861-7516. E11

Salt & Pepper GWM will share SoMa/Valencia Flat. 2 blks BART. W/D. Private Room. Share kitchen & bath. \$350/mo. + Dep. & Refs. Nonsmokers. Call 863-4663. E14

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Potrero Hill modern condo. to share, w/ Mature, resp. GWM seeking same. View, own bedrm/bath, frplc. Blk 648-5384 eve; 544-3456 day. E11

\$350, Erotic, Verbal 864-8597 E17

Roommates

Share beautiful home. Great neighborhood, shopping, close to Muni. Must be employed & like pets. Jim, 731-2830. E11

★ Non-smoker ★

GWM seeks res., mature R/M to share 2 br/1 ba apt. nr Dolores. Pk. View, frplc., lg. kit., W/D \$550. 1st & last mo. Avail. 4/1. 550-7849 E12

Beautiful room, unfurnished, to share in Victorian flat. Big kitchen. Formal garden. \$275 mo. 864-2709. E11

GWM, 39, into jazz, old movies, books, seeks roommate with similar interests — or his/her own TV and stereo — to share sunny 2 br. apt. in the Castro. Views, fireplace, laundry, \$380. (first, last, \$100 dep.) Please, no loud music, tobacco, or sex addicts. Bill 863-3193. E11

Resp., pro., mature GWM, refined furn. luxury condo North Bay, pan. vus. SF bay. Own rm., bath, pool, tennis, spa. \$600 mo. 236-5382. Lv message. E11

Share 6 rm., 2 br., 2 ba., Victorian flat near Alamo Sq. DW, decks, furnished. \$400 plus 1/2 util. Must be clean, non-smoker and responsible. 861-4349. E11

House at Duboce Park to shr. w/2M. 4 br., 2 ba., liv., din., deck, 1,000 s.f. loft avail. \$600. 863-4388 or 255-0316. E11

2 GWM seek 3rd to share large renovated Victorian flat. Sep. bdrm, share new kitchen and bath. Must see. \$425 + 1/2 util. + dep. 931-7169. E11

Pl. Hill/Concord

Prof. GWM wants same to share new 2 br. twnhouse. nr. shopping, bus, BART. Own br. w/bath. All amens. incl. W/D, fplc., pool/spa. Must be non-smoker, resp. and clean. \$475 + 1/2 utils. Call 676-6195. E11

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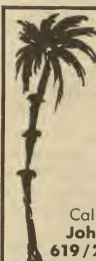
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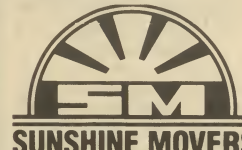
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